

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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Volume 2, No. 223 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004

# GIs discover house believed al-Zarqawi's

Fallujah building shows signs of occupation by militants Page 6



Fireworks light up the Little Rock sky over the presidential center on Wednesday, the night before its grand opening.

## Fanfare marks opening of Clinton library

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From left, President George W. Bush and former presidents Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter walk near the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday.

AP photos

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

**Afghanistan opium wars:** Afghanistan is on its way to becoming a "narco-state" and U.S. and NATO-led forces in the country should get more involved in fighting the drug trade as well as terrorists, according to a U.N. report released Thursday.

The agency found that this year's cultivation of opium — the raw material for heroin — was up by nearly two-thirds. Bad weather and disease kept production from setting a new record, although it still accounted for 87 percent of the world supply, up from 76 percent in 2003.

"It would be an historical error to abandon Afghanistan to opium, right after we reclaimed it from the Taliban and al-Qaida," said Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. The illegal trade is booming despite political progress in the country, including the first presidential election, and local drug control efforts led by British military advisers.

"Fighting narcotics is equivalent to fighting terrorism," he said.

**Thatcher charged in coup plot:** Equatorial Guinea prosecutors confirmed Thursday they have charged Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an alleged coup plot in the oil-rich west African nation.

Thatcher is accused of having helped finance the coup attempt, Attorney General Jose Olo Ohono said. Equatorial Guinea intends to seek Thatcher's extradition, a legal official close to the government's case told The Associated Press earlier this week.

### Thatcher

**Darfur negotiations:** A swift conclusion of an agreement to end the 21-year civil war in southern Sudan is critical to solving the rest of the problems in Africa's largest country, government, rebel and U.N. officials told the U.N. Security Council on Thursday.

The council was meeting in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, to focus attention on Sudan's two civil wars and an enormous humanitarian crisis. Southern rebels have been fighting the government since 1983, and the western region of Darfur erupted into violence in February 2003.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged the Security Council on Thursday to issue "the strongest warning" to all of the forces fighting in Sudan. He added that an agreement to end the war in southern Sudan would provide a basis for bringing peace to Darfur.

**Mideast peace process:** Sponsors of an internationally backed Mideast peace plan will send their foreign ministers to the region next week in hopes of restarting Israeli-Palestinian talks in the wake of Yasser Arafat's death.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will go to the West Bank next week, after Monday's visit by Secretary of State Colin Powell. The Spanish and German foreign ministers also are expected to come in weeks, Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath said.

The flurry of high-level visits was the latest sign that, with Arafat gone, the international community is ready to dive back into Mideast diplomacy and get the so-called "road map" peace plan back on track. The plan, which aims to create an independent Palestinian state by 2005, has been stalled since being signed in June 2003.

**Spanish terror attack:** Terrorists like



**Bonfire tragedy commemorated:** A visitor views the memorial to honor the 12 students who died and 27 others who were injured during the Nov. 10, 1999, collapse of the Texas A&M University bonfire in College Station, Texas. The memorial was the site of an intimate and silent ceremony Thursday, as hundreds gathered at 2:42 a.m. — the exact time of the collapse — on the grassy field where 12 Aggies were killed and 27 others were injured in 1999. The \$5 million memorial's centerpiece is a circle of 12 rectangular markers, one for each victim. They are connected by 27 large stones, symbolic of those injured.

those who set off bombs on Spanish commuter trains, killing 191 people, will attack again somewhere despite the best efforts by any government to safeguard its citizens, Spain's former secretary for state security said Thursday.

"Today the world is threatened by radical Islamic terrorism. We know it has increased its capability ... its evil," Ignacio Astorloa told the parliamentary commission investigating the March 11 train bombings. "We face the gravest threat. They'll try again."

**Space station troubles:** A Russian space transport ship failed to fully raise the orbit of the International Space Station in preparation for next month's docking of a supply ship, a Russian news agency reported Wednesday.

Alexander Kireyev, head of the ballistic coordination group at Russia's Mission Control outside Moscow, said the docked Progress transport ship was supposed to raise the orbiting station by about 2.8 miles, but the ship's engines were not strong enough.

He said the station was raised by only 1.68 miles, but that it would still be enough to allow a new transport ship, scheduled to be launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Dec. 23, to dock.

**Biotorator alert system:** A global system designed to spot bioterrorist attacks or new disease outbreaks became even more global Wednesday — it now gathers information in six more languages.

The Global Health Intelligence Network, created in 1998, previously scanned only English language news reports for signs of infectious disease crises. Beginning Wednesday, it scans reports in Arabic, French, Russian, Spanish, and both simplified and traditional Chinese.

The Nuclear Threat Initiative, a U.S.-based nonprofit, is dedicated to reducing the threat of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

**Kidnapped U.N. workers:** Three U.N. workers kidnapped three weeks ago in the Afghan capital remain out of reach, a government official said Thursday, as the world body appealed anew for their release. Armed men seized Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan, British-Irish citizen Annet Flanagan and Shiye Hebihi of Kosovo on Oct. 28, in the first kidnapping of foreigners in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban three years ago.

"There is no update," Interior Ministry

spokesman Latfullah Mashal said Thursday.

### States

**Peterson trial:** The attorney representing Scott Peterson, who was convicted of killing his pregnant wife, wants a new jury in a different county to decide whether Peterson gets the death penalty or life in prison without parole.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos made the request in a motion filed Wednesday in San Mateo County Superior Court. The details will not be made public until after Judge Alfred A. Delucchi reviews the file before the scheduled start of the penalty phase Monday morning, which could now be delayed.

**Al-Qaida intelligence:** The Clinton administration was deeply concerned in 2000 that al-Qaida sleeper cells existed in North America and considered ways to move against them, according to newly released testimony.

"There were two simultaneous plots, one in Jordan and one in the United States, and they both involved American citizens," Bush administration critic Richard Clarke testified in June 2002 before a congressional inquiry into the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The release of Clarke's 2002 testimony stems from Republican attempts to undermine his criticism of the Bush administration.

### Military

**Brownlee resigns:** Les Brownlee, the highly decorated Vietnam veteran who served as acting secretary of the Army for 18 months after Thomas White was fired, submitted his resignation Wednesday.

In a brief statement, the Pentagon said Brownlee's resignation is effective Dec. 3. Brownlee, 65, joined the Bush administration as undersecretary of the Army in November 2001. He took on the added responsibilities of acting secretary in May 2003, when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld dismissed White after a series of disputes over the pace of the Army's force modernization.

On Tuesday, the Senate confirmed Francis J. Harvey as the next Army secretary. Brownlee retired from the Army at the rank of colonel after a 22-year career that included two combat tours in Vietnam. He was awarded two Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars for battlefield valor.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# U.S. troops may have found al-Zarqawi HQ

BY TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops sweeping through Fallujah on Thursday said they believe they have found the main headquarters of the insurgent group headed by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In video shot by an embedded CNN cameraman, soldiers walked through an imposing building with concrete columns and with a large sign in Arabic on the wall reading "Al Qaeda Organization" and "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

Inside the building, U.S. soldiers found documents, old computers, notebooks, photographs and copies of the Quran.

Al-Zarqawi last month renamed his group al-Qaida in Iraq, and his followers have been blamed for a number of deadly bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including three Americans and a Briton. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for his capture or killing — the same amount as for Osama bin Laden.

Neighbors Jordan, authorities detained al-Zarqawi's nephew near the border with Iraq, a distant relative and a clergyman close to the family said Thursday. The clergyman and the relative, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, said security officials had informed the family that Mohammed al-Harashesh was the last man to see the relative said al-Harashesh was being questioned on suspicion of attempting to infiltrate into Iraq to join his militant unit.

After the seizure, U.S. Marine commander in Iraq said the U.S.-led offensive launched last week in Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency" by seiz-



U.S. servicemembers inspect a car in Sadr City, Baghdad, on Thursday.

ing their main base of operations.

"We feel right now that we have, as I mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," Lt. Gen. John Sattler told reporters at the Pentagon in a video teleconference from Fallujah.

Sattler's conclusion was far more optimistic than an assessment made shortly before the offensive by Marine intelligence officers, who said the insurgency would rebound if U.S. troop levels in the area were significantly reduced after the offensive.

Sattler cautioned, however, that insurgents remained a threat. A group attacked U.S. Marines and Iraqi government forces from a house inside Fallujah on Thursday, killing one Marine

and one Iraqi soldier, Sattler said. One Marine and one Iraqi soldier also were wounded.

Sattler said the total U.S. death toll so far in the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, stands at 51, with 425 wounded in action.

Also, insurgents detonated a car bomb near a U.S. military convoy in Baghdad and a roadside bomb exploded at a job recruiting center in the northern city of Kirkuk in attacks that killed four people, police and officials said.

The Baghdad attack occurred near the Yarmouk police station as a U.S. armored vehicle drove by, police Capt. Ahmed Shihab said. Two people were killed and five wounded by the blast, he said. The U.S. military had no immediate information on casual-

ties.

The Kirkuk attack killed two civilians and injured three others, said Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin with the Iraqi National Guard. Kirkuk is 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Insurgents also fired 10 mortar rounds at the provincial administration offices in the northern city of Mosul, wounding four of the governor's guards, authorities said. Gov. Duraid Kashmoula was unhurt in the attack, spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said.

Initial reports said the rounds landed near a fuel truck, setting it ablaze, Hastings said.

The rest of Mosul, Iraq's third largest city with more than 1 million residents, remained calm for a second day since the U.S.-led of-

fensive operation began Tuesday to wrest control of the western part of the city from insurgents.

The U.S. military said as many as 2,500 U.S. and Iraqi troops met "little resistance" during operations to re-secure police stations and key bridges in Mosul from the insurgents.

Iraqi authorities have acknowledged that al-Zarqawi, along with other Fallujah insurgent leaders, escaped from the rebel bastion west of Baghdad where he was based before American troops moved in.

Early Thursday, U.S. troops encountered intense rocket-propelled grenade attacks in Fallujah, said Lt. Col. Pete Newell, a commander in Task Force 22, 1st Infantry Division. The Americans returned heavy fire.

Afterward, troops walked through the area, which contained dozens of destroyed buildings and fox holes where they believed insurgents fled when the bombing in the area started.

Some of the papers found by U.S. soldiers in the building bore Saddam Hussein's picture. Soldiers also found a ski mask and several bags of sodium nitrate, which can be used in making explosives, in other areas.

While U.S. and Iraqi forces have retaken insurgent strongholds in Fallujah and Mosul, violence continues to erupt in Sunni Muslim-dominated areas of Iraq.

The Iraqi government, meanwhile, warned that Islamic clerics who incite violence will be considered to be "participating in terrorism," and it said a number of clerics already have been arrested.

Associated Press Military Writer Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday at least 1,214 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 944 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Wednesday. The figures include deaths of military civilians.

The AP count matches the Defense Department's tally as of Wednesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,076 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 835 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army 1st Lt. Luke C. Wullenwaber, 24, Leviston, Idaho, killed Tuesday when an explosive detonated near his military vehicle in Khaldiyyah, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Marshall H. Caddy, 27, Nags Head, N.C.; died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Khaldiyyah, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, Korea.

■ Army Pfc. Jose Ricardo Flores-Mejia, 21, Santa Clara, Calif.; died Tuesday when an explosive hit his convoy in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to 25th Transportation Company, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Spc. Daniel James McConnell, 27, Duluth, Minn.; died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Kirkuk, Iraq; assigned to 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Pfc. Isiah R. Hunt, 20, Green Bay, Wis.; died Monday in a vehicle accident in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 782nd Main Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. George J. Payton, 20, Culver City, Calif.; killed Sunday in

Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army Pfc. Cole W. Larsen, 19, Canyon Country, Calif.; died Saturday in a vehicle accident in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 272nd Military Police Company, 21st Theater Support Command, Mannheim, Germany.

Killed Monday in Anbar province, Iraq:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy A. Ailes, 22, Gilroy, Calif.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Travis R. Desiato, 19, Bedford, Mass.; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Shane E. Kielson, 23, La Vista, Neb.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. William L. Miller, 22, Pearland, Texas; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta, 25, San Diego; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

■ Marine Capt. Patrick Marc R. Rapp, 34, St. Augustine, Fla.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Marc T. Ryan, 25, Gloucester, N.J.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Antoine D. Smith, 22, Orlando, Fla.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. James E. Swain, 20, Kokomo, Ind.; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Lance M. Thompson, 21, Upland, Ind.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

# Commander: Insurgent 'safe haven' taken

## Primary base of operations seized in Fallujah offensive

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The senior U.S. Marine commander in Iraq said Thursday that the U.S.-led offensive in Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency" by seizing their main base of operations.

"We feel right now that we have, as mentioned, broken the back of the insurgency. We've taken away this safe haven," Lt. Gen. John Sattler told reporters at the Pentagon in a video teleconference from Fallujah.

He said that assessment was based on what U.S. officials found in records uncovered in insurgent command posts inside Fallujah.

Sattler's conclusion is more optimistic than an assessment made shortly before the offensive by Marine intelligence officers, who said the insurgency would rebound if U.S. troop levels in the area were significantly reduced after the offensive.

Sattler made no mention of the intelligence assessment, but he stressed the importance of bringing essential services back on line in Fallujah as quickly as possible and starting reconstruction work.

He said the insurgents are now "scattered" in Iraq with fewer resources available to carry out attacks.

"Each and every time we can force these individuals to go to new locations, expand their circle of friends — if you want to call it that — to include some that they don't know and they don't trust, they'll bring in rookies, more junior people that will, in fact, make mistakes," he said.

"And that's why I mentioned that this has disrupted them, I believe — my personal belief — across the country. This is going to make it very hard for them to operate," he added.

Sattler cautioned that remnants of the insurgents who had controlled Fallujah for months are still a problem. A group of insurgents attacked U.S. Marines and Iraqi government forces from a house inside the city Thursday, killing one Marine and one Iraqi



Lt. Gen. John Sattler

soldier, Sattler said. One Marine and one Iraqi soldier also were wounded.

Sattler at one point said Fallujah "is not quite secure at this point," but later he said he had misspoken. "The town of Fallujah is secure, but we're in the search-and-clear phase that will make it safe — relatively safe is the best word," he said.

Bomb-making materials and improvised explosive devices need to be recovered or destroyed, he said, and the Marines are still looking for remaining insurgents who may be lying low with the intention of disrupting efforts to reconstruct the city.

He said U.S. forces have found a number of documents from the insurgents' command posts inside the city that lists the names of some of their fighters, including some from outside of Iraq.

Sattler said the total U.S. death toll so far in the Fallujah offensive, which began Nov. 7, stands at 51, with about 425 wounded in action. Earlier in the week, U.S. officials put the number of dead at 38.

He declined to give a firm estimate of the number of insurgents killed in the fighting, but he said the 1,200 figure cited in some news reports was "a safe number." He said 1,025 captives in insurgent were in detention, and



AP photos

**Above:** U.S. Marines of the 1st Division rest after searching a kitchen of a house in the western part of Fallujah, Iraq, on Monday while trying to corner the remaining resistance in the city. The senior U.S. Marine commander in Iraq said the Fallujah offensive has "broken the back of the insurgency." **Below:** A 1st Division Marine walks the deserted streets on Monday. The Fallujah mission is now in the "search-and-clear" phase.

that about 150 who had been captured were subsequently determined to be nonhostile and were let go.

Sattler said city residents who fled before the U.S.-led offensive will not be allowed back until conditions are safer. He said the resettlement would be done in phases, starting with residences in the northern part of Fallujah.

Fallujah typically has a population of about 200,000. The vast majority fled before the fighting began.

"The town must be secure before we let the Fallujah people back in," he said. He gave no specific estimate of when that would happen, saying only that it would take "some time."

Coalition officials are working with the Iraqi government to plan



the return of civilians, setting up a Civil-Military Operations Center, or CMOC, Sattler said.

One of the plans includes a vetting process to compensate civilians for damage to their homes and cars, as well as any injuries or deaths to family members, Sattler said, although he remarked that while 25 to 30 civilians have

been treated by U.S. forces for injuries, "I know of none that have been killed."

Sattler said he could not confirm reports that the body of kidnapped British aid worker Margaret Hassan had been found in Fallujah.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

## 'Sopranos' stars tour bases

James Gandolfini and Tony Sirico, stars of the popular TV series "The Sopranos," are expected to draw mobs of fans during a series of appearances at military installations in the Persian Gulf region.

The two are currently making a series of meet-and-greet stops throughout the region as part of holiday events planned by the United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment. Gandolfini plays mobster Tony Soprano and Sirico plays his carefully barbed captain, Paulie Walnuts, in the long-running series.

The two are touring the Persian Gulf, visiting stops, signing autographs, posing for photos and watching movies with the troops, according to the USO. Officials would not release exact stops and dates for security reasons.

Gandolfini and Sirico follow stars such as Wayne Newton, Toby Keith and 50 Cent to the Gulf region this year, where the USO has more than a dozen holiday tours scheduled, according to a USO release. Upcoming appearances are scheduled for Rich Little in the Mediterranean, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders in South Korea and cast members from "The West Wing" and "Days of Our Lives" in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, among others.

## Hassoun's belongings found

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. troops have recovered belongings of a U.S. Marine who was once feared beheaded by Iraqi insurgents after disappearing from his unit, U.S. officials said.

The personal effects of Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun were found last week in a box on the third floor of a three-story commercial building in Fallujah, the officials said. The property included an identification card, a uniform and a book.

Hassoun, of West Jordan, Utah, disappeared from his base near Fallujah in June and later turned up at the U.S. Embassy in

Beirut, Lebanon. It remains unclear how he traveled from Iraq to Lebanon, where he has relatives.

On June 27, Arab television showed a videotape of a blindfolded Hassoun, a sword hanging over his head. At one point while he was missing, a group claiming to represent his captors announced that he had been beheaded after being lured from the base by a love affair.

Hassoun returned in July to the Marine base at Camp Lejeune, N.C. In September, medical authorities at Camp Lejeune declared him fit for full duty, allowing him to return to the brigade motor pool where he worked before he deployed to Iraq in February.

From staff and wire reports



# Sadr City a blueprint for Fallujah

## Some troops believe their reconstructive efforts to be a model

By KATARINA KRATOVA  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Goats nibble on rotting vegetables, barefoot children scavenge through garbage and women in black robes scurry over slivers of pavement to avoid raw sewage floating down the street. As U.S. soldiers pass by, the bustle continues uninterrupted.

This is Sadr City, Baghdad's biggest slum, home to over 2 million Shiite Muslim inhabitants and the stronghold of the militant Shiite cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr.

Violence has convulsed the area twice this year, with U.S. soldiers battling al-Sadr's militia in April and again in the summer before an October cease-fire.

But these days, Sadr City is an experiment in peace, one some U.S. military officials believe could be a model for Fallujah once resistance there is suppressed.

"Fallujah and Sadr City are not all that different," said Capt. Zachary Miller. "What we are doing in Sadr City could quite possibly be a blueprint for turning around Fallujah."

"There was truly a time when all the people who were out here on the streets were out to do us harm," Miller added. "All we did was fight. Now we are helping them start a better life."

Two months ago, the idea of Sadr City serving as a model for anything positive seemed preposterous. Clashes turned entire blocks into war zones. Women and children disappeared from the streets.

Militiamen, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, tanks and gunships took center stage.

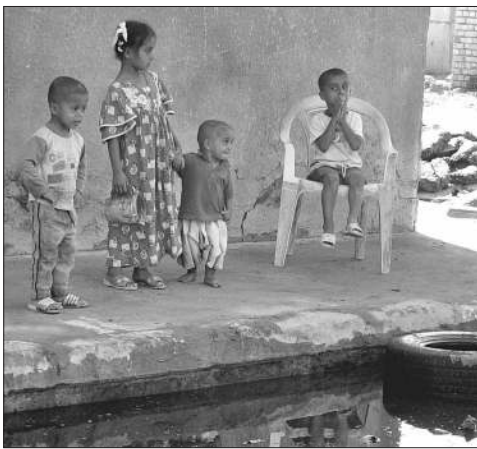


Children crowd a playground in Sadr City on Saturday. While U.S. troops launched a major attack Saturday against insurgent holdouts in southern Baghdad, residents of Sadr City enjoyed relative calm following a peace agreement last month.

## Official: CARE worker murdered

CANBERRA, Australia — Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Thursday a body found in the strife-torn Iraqi city of Fallujah likely was that of kidnapped aid worker Margaret Hassan.

"The body found in Fallujah appears to have been Margaret's and the video of the execution of a Western woman appears on all the available information to have been genuine," Howard told Parliament.



Iraqi children stand next to a flooded street in Sadr City, Baghdad, on Oct. 22. Some in the U.S. military believe the experiment in bringing peace to Baghdad's Shiite Muslim slum of Sadr City could be a model for Fallujah, once subdued.

"We were fighting really heavily here and look at Sadr City now," said Capt. Jason Bullock, of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division. "If someone told me a couple of months ago I'd be walking like this through here, I'd think they were crazy."

"But it's a deceptive calm," Bullock added. "Everything can change in the blink of an eye."

Key to success has been a government program to buy back weapons from Shiite fighters. The program may not have weakened al-Sadr, who still commands fierce loyalty in the slum where crumbling walls are plastered with his picture. But it did help calm tensions and put desperately needed cash in the hands of many ordinary people.

Reconstruction has also played a major role in ending the turmoil. The U.S. Army has provided \$330 million for basic services in Sadr City, \$134 million of which is already being spent, said Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Some 16,000 workers, most from Sadr City, have been enlisted to repair pumping stations — adding brick walls to guard against insurgent attacks — run power lines and bring potable water to the slum. Eleven miles of new pipes are stored at a depot on Sadr City's southern edge.

"This is the key ingredient, for the first time, clean water and electricity will get directly to the houses in Sadr City," Chiarelli said. "We are not only fixing it, we are helping them have a hope for their lives and their future."

Howard did not say which body he was referring to but on Sunday, Marines found the mutilated body of what they believe was Western woman on a street in Fallujah during the U.S. assault on the insurgent stronghold.

Hassan was a British citizen born in Ireland and married to an Iraqi man.

The Arab satellite station al-Jazeera said early this week it had received a videotape showing the murder of a woman believed to be Hassan, a British-Irish national who had lived in Iraq for three decades.

Mohammed Radhi, 33, earns \$6 a day digging a sewer line in the dusty area. For him, it's more than a job. "I am building a new country for myself, a new Iraq."

But 40-year-old Fahd Hussein, a father of eight, doubts the Americans will succeed.

"This place has changed in 20 years. Nothing works here," he said, carrying a bag of overripe bananas. "What makes them think they can change it?"

Capt. Miller says Sadr City has already changed and credits the creation of jobs. "You give one guy a job and it's one less shooting at us."

Lt. Col. Dave Batchelor says his troops' daily 12-hour presence on Sadr City streets took some steam off the militia drive.

"First we got the IEDs off the streets," says Batchelor, referring to homemade bombs of Improvised Explosive Devices. "Then we just stayed there. That's when the turnaround came. They saw we weren't going away."

"Now we are showing them that 'sweat' projects — sewage, water, electricity and trash — can work. It can turn their life around," he added, as a tractor-trailer drove by with four men scooping up the trash.

But it's still a sensitive time in Sadr City. In some places, sewage is knee-deep and hepatitis and typhoid are prevalent.

Batchelor shrugs when he hears some U.S.-brought improvements attributed to al-Sadr.

"Muqtada made them help us. He is ours and if he says fight the Americans, we'll do it again," says Sheikh Jamal Hani Anda, 70.

"If he is good with them, so are we."

CARE, the Brussels-based charity whose Iraqi office Hassan headed, said Tuesday: "It is with profound sadness that we have learnt of the existence of a video in which it appears that our colleague Margaret Hassan has been killed... The whole of CARE is in mourning."

Hassan was kidnapped by armed men who stopped her car as she was going to work in Baghdad on Oct. 19. She held British, Irish and Iraqi nationalities, was married to an Iraqi and had lived in Iraq for 30 years.

From The Associated Press

## British holiday tradition

LONDON — Pipes and pencils will be replaced by cameras and games when a 90-year-old royal tradition of sending gifts to British troops abroad is revived this Christmas, a defense spokesman said Thursday.

British troops spending the Christmas of 1914 huddled in trenches in France or on battlefields off the Falkland Islands received a Christmas gift box filled with pipes, lighters, cigarettes and telescoping "bullet pencils" made from .303 rifle cartridges.

The gifts were the initiative of Princess Mary, the 17-year-old daughter of King George V and Queen Mary, who wanted everyone wearing the British uniform overseas to receive a gift from the nation on Christmas Day.

Ninety years later their modern day contemporaries in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, the Balkans, and the Falkland and Ascension Islands will get a bundle containing cameras, games and other treats.

## Troop withdrawal

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Hungary will try to withdraw its troops from Iraq as soon as possible, the prime minister said Thursday.

"If we were going to return home, it should be with the fewest conflicts and as fast as possible," Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany told Hungarian television station TV2.

Center-right opposition parties in parliament Monday voted down a government plan to extend by three months the stay of the 300-member Hungarian contingent serving under Polish command in Hillah, Iraq.

The extension would have kept the Hungarians in Iraq until March 31, 2005, but Gyurcsany said Thursday he had instructed Defense Minister Ferenc Juhász to begin talks about bringing home as many soldiers as possible before the end of the year.

## Clerics arrested

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi government warned Thursday that Islamic clerics who incite violence will be considered "participating in terrorism," and said that a number of them have already been arrested.

"The government is determined to pursue those who incite acts of violence. A number of modern clerics who have publicly called for taking the path of violence have been arrested and will be legally tried," said Thair al-Nageeb, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's spokesman.

"Some mosque clerics incite people to the police and the National Guard. They're considered participating in terrorism."

Al-Nageeb did not specify how many clerics have already been taken into custody.

Over the past two weeks, a number of modern clerics in Iraq and in Baghdad and other cities have been arrested by U.S. and Iraqi forces, including several members of the Iraqi National Association of Muslim Scholars which has been at the forefront of criticism of the Fallujah operation.

From The Associated Press

# Al-Zarqawi 'training center' reportedly found

## Iraqi authorities acknowledge terrorist leader has escaped capture

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. troops sweeping through Fallujah on Thursday say they believe they have found a "training center" for the insurgent group headed by Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In video footage shot by an embedded CNN crew, soldiers walked through one imposing building with concrete columns with a large sign in Arabic on the wall reading "Al Qaida Organization" and "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger."

Al-Zarqawi's group, Al-Qaida in Iraq, is considered the deadliest terrorist network in the country, held responsible for a string of deadly car bombings and gruesome kidnappings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including American Nicholas Berg.

Inside the building, U.S. soldiers found documents, old com-

puters, notebooks, photographs and copies of the Quran. The footage also showed that flight patterns were found for aircraft, along with plans and instructions for how to shoot them down.

There were also two letters inside the house, one from al-Zarqawi giving instructions to two of his lieutenants in the region. Another sought money and help from the terrorist leader.

In a separate raid Thursday, the joint forces discovered a car bomb-making workshop in Fallujah's industrial section where a sport-utility vehicle with a Texas

registration sticker was being converted into a car bomb.

The SUV was sitting in a warehouse surrounded by several bags of sodium nitrate, used in making explosives. The vehicle had no license plate, but some 15 license plates were inside.

Iraqi authorities have acknowledged that al-Zarqawi, along with other Fallujah insurgent leaders, escaped from the rebel bastion west of Baghdad where he was based.

In neighboring Jordan, authorities detained al-Zarqawi's nephew near the Jordanian-Iraqi border, a distant relative and a clergyman close to the family said Thursday.

The clergyman and the relative, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, said security officials had informed the family that Mohammed al-Harashesh had been detained last month.

The relative said al-Harashesh was being questioned on suspicion of attempting to infiltrate into Iraq to join his militant uncle.

Calls to Al-Zarqawi's family home in Zarqa, an industrial city 17 miles northeast of the Jordanian capital Amman, went unanswered.

Jordan has been trying to prevent Jordanians and other Arabs from slipping across its desert border to fight American troops in Iraq. Measures adopted in the wake of the U.S.-led war in March last year included beefing up security along the eastern desert border, closely scrutinizing travelers' records and questioning those considered suspicious as they try to enter Iraq.

Officials have declined to provide an estimate on how many would-be fighters had been stopped or give an assessment of the effectiveness of their

counter-infiltration measures.

Al-Zarqawi, whose real name is Ahmad Fadil Nazal al-Khalayleh, is wanted by both Jordanian and American authorities. The United States has offered \$25 million for information leading to his capture.

His group recently announced its allegiance to al-Qaida.

A Jordanian military court has sentenced al-Zarqawi to death in absentia for taking part in a terrorist conspiracy targeting Americans and Israelis in Jordan, including U.S. aid official Laurence Foley, who was assassinated in Amman in 2002.

He is also thought in what Jordanian officials allege was a foiled plot to launch a chemical bomb attack on the Amman headquarters of the General Intelligence Department. Suspects in that case were to go on trial in Jordan's military court soon.

# Services tell Congress: Fight in Iraq requires more funding

BY ESTHER SCHRADER  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Continued fighting in Iraq is straining U.S. forces nearly to the breaking point, even as the Pentagon pumps more than \$5.8 billion per month into sustaining its forces there, the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines told Congress on Wednesday.

In testimony to the House Armed Services Committee, the service chiefs said the military would need considerably more money for Iraq over the next year. The chiefs of the Army and Marines in particular stressed the increasing difficulty of recruiting and retaining soldiers, and then equipping them for combat.

"Make no mistake, today we are at war," Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, told lawmakers. "And we should not make the mistake of thinking this war will end in a year or two."

The Marine Corps is spending about \$300 million per month on the missions in Iraq or Afghanistan, Hagee said, and is deploying its forces on a new "one to one ratio of seven months deployed, seven months home, and then another seven-month deployment."

In the past, Marines were accustomed to a "one to three" tempo, being deployed for three months, alternating with three months at home base for 18 months before they could be expected to set sail again, Hagee said.

In the last year, as the insurgency in Iraq has grown, "the demand on the force has increased exponentially," Hagee said. "This demand is especially telling in the strain on our Marines, their families, and on our equipment and material stocks."

The Corps has activated "approximately 99 percent of selective Marine Corps reserves" to meet deployment needs, Hagee said.

As for equipment, approximately 13 percent of the Marines' ground equipment and 25 percent of aviation equipment is deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, Hagee said, adding \$8 billion to \$10 billion in

extra maintenance costs to the service's budget.

For the Army, which has 110,000 soldiers serving in Iraq — five times as many troops as the Marine Corps — the strain is particularly acute, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said.

Overall, with 145,000 reserve component soldiers mobilized, the Army now has 640,000 to 650,000 soldiers on active duty, which is 25,000 soldiers more than Congress has authorized the active force, Schoomaker said.

Moreover, the service is not only prosecuting its largest, most extended war since Vietnam, it is also doing a 180-degree reorganization into smaller, more independent formations.

To do both Iraq and transform at the same time is "like tuning a car while the engine is running," Schoomaker said.

A top priority for the Army is increasing the number of armored Humvees in Iraq, Schoomaker said, "but it's being a moving target," because the requirements keep increasing.

The service now has about 5,600 armored Humvees in Iraq with a goal of having 8,600 by next year, Schoomaker said. The service has also made the decision to armor all of its vehicles in that country, he said, mostly with add-on kits that manufacturers are now racing to turn out by the thousands.

The Army has also sent more than 400,000 sets of body armor to its forces in Iraq but needs 373,000 more this year, Schoomaker said.

The service needs so many sets of armor because it is responsible for providing the equipment to all U.S. military and civilian government forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Iraqi security services and coalition partners.

The Army has also scrapped its former practice of "swapping out" protective equipment at staging areas in Kuwait from departing units to those about to go into Iraq, Schoomaker said.

Instead, the Army's goal now is to pro-



From left, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Michael Hagee and the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., talk before the start of Wednesday's House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington.

vide advanced body armor to units before they leave the United States, so troops can train and become accustomed to the gear, the four-star chief said.

The Army is also rushing to provide its troops with 41,600 more radios, 33,500 M-4 carbines and 25,000 machine guns, and to repair thousands of tactical wheeled vehicles, Schoomaker said.

"I'm talking about quite a large-scale deal," he told the committee.

The Air Force also is feeling the strain, Gen. John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, told lawmakers.

Right now, there are 30,000 aircraft deployed to 16 bases in Southwest and Central Asia, Jumper said, and the high deployment tempo has forced service officials to "reset deployment time from 90 days to 120 days."

Meanwhile, about 20 percent of the Air Force's aircrew whose skills are in very high demand, such as security forces, are often deployed for 180 days and as long as one year, Jumper said.

In order to assist the Army with its skills shortages, about 2,000 airman have been trained by soldiers and are doing truck convoy duty over in Iraq as well, Jumper said.

Committee members expressed their concerns regarding the strains on both troops and equipment.

"It's obvious our people are tired, and we're wearing out our equipment at a faster rate," Democrat Ike Skelton of Mississippi, the ranking minority member of the committee, said. "We're at the breaking point on equipment."

Considering the tempo of operations in Iraq, especially lately, such conditions are understandable, Skelton said.

But "what's not understandable is our inability to address this issue before it becomes a real crisis," he said. "We've got to be honest. Our servicemembers and families should be sure to have the necessary resources" to complete their missions.

Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report.

## IN THE STATES

## Celebration marks opening of Clinton library

BY DAVID HAMMER  
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Top Clinton administration officials, both Presidents Bush, rock stars and ordinary admirers of Bill Clinton turned out Thursday to pay homage to the former president at the opening of the Clinton Presidential Center.

An estimated 30,000 guests were on hand for the dedication of the \$165 million glass-and-steel home of artifacts and documents gathered during Clinton's eight years in the White House.

Clinton, President Bush, and former presidents George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter took the stage together while the U.S. Air Force Concert Band played "Hail to the Chief." Their wives took the stage moments earlier.

"Welcome to Little Rock, Arkansas, the first capital that President Clinton called home. Thank you for being a part of this special celebration," said Skip Rutherford, president of the foundation that built the riverfront library, as he opened a ceremony that also was to feature remarks by Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and music by U2's Bono and The Edge.

But the true star was Clinton, whose library collection consists of more than 80 million presidential items. Clinton has promised to give scholars early access to previously private policy advice and other documents he isn't required to release until 2006.



From left, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, former President Jimmy Carter, former first lady Barbara Bush, former President George H. W. Bush, first lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush, Chelsea Clinton, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton watch from under umbrellas at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center during opening ceremonies in Little Rock, Ark., on Thursday.

Wet bleachers and lengthy security lines Thursday morning did little to squelch the enthusiasm of thousands waiting to attend.

Sister Judith Dalesandro was among four nuns who came to the event from a Roman Catholic convent in Jonesboro. "Bill Clinton is the best president we've ever had in the United States," said Sister Dalesandro, who taught school in Little Rock when Clinton was Arkansas governor. "He was wonderful."

Before the official dedication ceremony, trumpeter Phil Driscoll played "America," several Arkansas musicians performed and Rita Dove, who Clinton appointed as the first black U.S. poet laureate in 1993, read her poem "This Life."

"The building opens to the public Friday. Visitors can peruse the library's 14 alcoves detailing aspects of Clinton's Oval Office years — one of which is dedicated to scandal.

## What to see there...

The Associated Press

Visitors to the Clinton presidential library in Little Rock, Ark., should allow at least two hours for a visit, according to library director David Alsobrook. For their \$7 admission fee, they'll see:

■ A presidential timeline that highlights Clinton's eight years in office. The first panel features a quote from Clinton's first inaugural address: "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America."

■ Fourteen alcoves that highlight significant themes from Clinton's presidency. One discusses "The Fight For Power," and places Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky with the president's policy battles with the GOP.

■ Extended treatment of Clinton's peace efforts in Northern Ireland, the Balkans and the Middle East, and his efforts to mend race relations in America.

■ Scores of gifts Clinton received in his world travels. The cultural significance of many artifacts, many with unique craftsmanship, would make them suitable for any museum, not necessarily one dedicated to Clinton's presidency.

■ A replica of the Oval Office, down to the collection of military medals Clinton gathered during visits to bases and forts worldwide.

## Reviewer: Public 'defenseless' against FDA-approved drugs

BY DIEDTRA HENDERSON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The American public is "virtually defenseless" if another medication such as Vioxx proves to be unsafe after it is approved for sale, a U.S. government drug safety reviewer told a congressional committee Thursday.

"I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx," said David Graham, who warned that the arthritis drug had been linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

He told the Senate Finance Committee that there were at

least five other drugs on the market today that should be looked at seriously to see whether they should remain there. He cited the acne drug Accutane, the weight loss drug Meridia, the anti-cholesterol drug Crestor, the pain-reliever Bextra, and the asthma drug Serevent.

Vioxx's maker, Merck and Co., pulled the drug from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular painkiller doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

Raymond V. Gilmartin, the company president, said in prepared testimony that Merck acted within four days of learning about the risk.

"Given the availability of alternative therapies and the questions raised by the data withdrawing Vioxx was consistent with an ethic that has driven Merck actions and decisions for more than 100 years," he said.

Gilmartin also said the company was surprised by the cardiovascular risk because it differed from past clinical trials.

Graham said his research helped to coax the FDA to withdraw a number of drugs including Fen-phen, a weight loss drug, Lotronex, Baycol and Rezulin.

"During my career I have recommended the market withdrawal of 12 drugs," he said. "Only two of these remain on the market today."



Convicted serial killer Coral Eugene Watts is escorted out of court by Oakland County deputies after a guilty verdict in his murder trial on Wednesday in Pontiac, Mich.

## Killer set for release sent back to prison for murder

The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — Cheering and hugging, victims' relatives celebrated after a jury convicted a confessed serial killer of stabbing a 36-year-old woman to death in a Detroit suburb.

The case was brought by prosecutors in a desperate bid to keep Coral Eugene Watts from getting out of prison in less than two years.

Watts had received immunity for 12 killings — 11 in Texas and one in Michigan — as part of a 1982 deal with Texas prosecutors that led to a 60-year sentence for burglary with intent to murder.

But mandatory release laws and an appeals court ruling lapsed more than 35 years off his sentence.

He was due to be released from a Texas prison in April 2006, but Watts now faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole for the death of Helen Dutcher in 1979.

Victims and family members flashed smiles in the courtroom Wednesday after Watts, 51, was led away in shackles.

Defense attorney Ronald Kaptovitz said it would be up to Watts whether to appeal. He described his client's reaction to the verdict as "quiet resignation."

## Officials: Possible new mad cow case found

BY JOHN HEILPRIN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A second case of mad cow disease may have turned up in the United States but the suspect meat has not entered the food chain, Agriculture Department officials said Thursday.

The officials released few details and refused to say where the possibly diseased animal was found. They said it would be four to seven days before more could be confirmed, a delay that livestock industry representatives

said would cause turmoil in the beef market.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, attacks an animal's nervous system. People who eat food contaminated with BSE can contract a rare disease that is nearly always fatal, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The possible case comes 11 months after the United States had its first case of mad cow disease. Japan and other countries are still maintaining bans against U.S. beef as the result of the earlier case.

Suspensions about another case of the disease came because of an inconclusive test result, officials said.

"The inconclusive result does not mean we have found another case of BSE in this country," said Andrea Morgan, associate deputy administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

She said the inconclusive results "are a normal component of screening tests, which are designed to be extremely sensitive so they will detect any sample that could possibly be positive."

# Report on 9/11 compensation released

BY CHRISTOPHER LEE  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The federal compensation for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks could have been distributed more fairly and efficiently if equal payouts had been given to all families instead of basing awards on factors such as the victim's age and potential lost income, according to the fund's administrator.

Kenneth Feinberg, special master of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, said that the varying sizes of individual awards, required by Congress, led to "finger-pointing" among victims and a sense that officials were placing a higher value on some lives than on others. It also greatly complicated the task of calculating compensation for those who suffered losses after

## Payment method criticized for placing unfair value on lives

terrorists slammed airplanes into the World Trade Center in the Pentagon and a field in rural Pennsylvania, he said.

"I had the firefighter's widow saying to me, 'Mr. Feinberg, why am I getting a million dollars less than the stockbroker's husband, who was pushing a pencil on the 103rd floor and my husband died a hero? I must be missing something,'" Feinberg said in an interview Tuesday.

"And it fueled the divisiveness which was inevitable when the statute required different amounts for everybody."

Feinberg, who released his final report Wednesday, stressed that he believes the overall program was a great success. His sentiments about uniform, or

"flat," awards are personal observations, he said, not official conclusions. He also noted that the fairness and feasibility of any flat-award system would depend on the size of the awards and the extent to which accepting the compensation restricts the recipient's right to sue in court.

"I think a flat system is better; but you cannot, I think, create a fair and equitable flat-payment system unless you address somehow the questions of how much the payment is] and are you curtailing the right to litigate?" Feinberg said in an interview. "If the flat payment is too small, you'll litigate."

Congress established the fund shortly after the attacks as part of legislation that provided billions of dollars to struggling airlines and protected the industry from

potentially crippling lawsuits. People who sought compensation from the fund were required to waive their right to sue but in return received money sooner and with greater certainty than they would have through legal action.

Congress required that the awards be based on individual circumstances, a design that mirrored the civil justice system and, lawmakers believed, made the fund a more attractive option to victims who would otherwise choose to sue.

John Coffee, a professor at Columbia Law School, said a flat-award system would have prompted more victims to sue, creating more delays, and, ultimately, leaving some deserving people with nothing. Tailored awards have more appeal, he said.

"I don't know why someone who has got six children and would have had 40 more years in which to earn money to support them, what that person should get the same award as someone who is 72 and was already retired," Coffee said. "I do see why some individualization of the award to each victim's circumstances is necessary if the system is going to be perceived as equitable and just."

The fund paid out its first claim on Aug. 22, 2002, and its final payment is expected in the next few weeks. In all, more than \$7 billion went to the survivors of 2,880 people who were killed and to 2,680 people who were injured in the attacks or the rescue efforts that followed, according to the report.

Families of the people killed collected awards averaging more than \$2 million, and the injured drew payouts averaging almost \$400,000.

## Study: Running key to human evolution

BY BRYN NELSON  
Newsday

As sprinters, end elite human athletes would be left in the dust by galloping horses, greyhounds and pronghorn antelopes. Our largely overlooked success as endurance runners, however, may be key to our early anatomical evolution, according to a new review of past research.

"We're very old runners," said Daniel Lieberman, one of the study's co-authors and a biological anthropologist at Harvard University. "But we do it really well. We're actually designed to do it."

The ability to run marathons makes us unique among primates and can render other animals more also-rans, according to evidence gathered by Lieberman and University of Utah biologist Dennis Bramble that will be

published Thursday in the journal *Nature*. Some studies have suggested well-conditioned humans can outrun even horses over extremely long distances.

A wide range of features in the human body, including our long Achilles tendons, large joints, long legs, narrow waist, balanced head and ample buttocks all have given us a leg up on the competition.

Fossil evidence suggests these assets may have arisen as early as 2 million years ago, perhaps allowing our early Homo habilis or Homo erectus ancestors to reach food before competitors such as hyenas, or to chase down prey until it dropped from exhaustion.

This added source of protein and fat, Lieberman and others speculate, might have provided the energy for yet more anatomical changes: larger bodies, smaller guts and bigger brains.

The mechanics of running are akin to the flexing and rebounding of springs, a motion dependent on tendons in our legs and feet. Chief among these spring-like tendons is the Achilles, more developed in humans than in any other primate.

"There's no reason to have those springs if you're not a runner," he said. "Just the Achilles tendon alone is unquestionable evidence for running."

In the body's lower half, large joints act as shock absorbers to cushion impact when a runner's heel hits ground. And our, um, rather large rear end — "It's one of our most distinctive characteristics," Lieberman said. "If you look at a chimpanzee, it's got a tiny rear end."

As Stony Brook University anatomical specialist William Jungers put it, "It's no coincidence that in chimpanzees, the same muscle is called gluteus superficialis, and in humans, it's called gluteus maximus."

## S.C. find could place humans in N. America earlier than believed

BY AMY GEIER EDGAR  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A leading archaeologist says he has discovered what could be sooty evidence that humans lived in North America tens of thousands of years earlier than is commonly believed.

University of South Carolina archaeologist Al Goodyear said Wednesday he has uncovered a layer of charcoal from a possible hearth or fire pit at a site near the Savannah River.

Samples from the layer have been laboratory-dated to more than 10,000 years ago. Yet Goodyear stopped short of declaring it proof of the continent's earliest human occupation.

Since the 1960s, anthropologists have generally accepted that hunters migrated to North America about 13,000 years ago over a land bridge into Alaska fol-

lowing the retreat of Ice Age glaciers.

But other sites, including the Topper dig in South Carolina, have yielded rough stone tools and other artifacts suggesting that humans lived in North America thousands of years earlier when the climate was much colder.

But a 50,000-year-old fire pit would search the prevailing occupation theory.

Goodyear's evidence was examined by other scientists, who performed radiocarbon tests on samples to determine their age.

However, he made his initial case for the fire pit Wednesday in a news conference, rather than publishing the data in a scientific journal edited by other researchers.

Thomas Stafford, director of Stafford Laboratories in Boulder, Colorado, then took samples of the substance for tests at the University of California at Irvine.



University of South Carolina archaeologist Albert Goodyear holds a "chisel-like" tool that was found at the Topper dig site in Allendale County, S.C., on Wednesday.

The results showed that wood varieties — oak, pine, red cherry and buckeye — had been burned in a low-temperature fire at least 50,000 years ago, he said.

"We still need to be cautious," said Vanderbilt University anthropologist Tom Dillehay. "I would not yet rewrite the books. The find is very significant and shows that there is much we don't understand and can't easily reject or accept."

Other scientists were blunter. "I think it's a 50,000-year-old geologic deposit," said University of Texas archaeologist Mike Collins, "has almost nothing to do with the story of the peopling of North America."

Modern humans are believed to have emerged from Africa 100,000 years ago and spread around the world, elbowing out less capable human cousins like Homo erectus and Neanderthals.

## Magazine 'has-beens'

NEW PALITZ, N.Y. — Mad magazine is declaring that Jason West's 15 minutes of fame are over.

The New Palitz mayor who's been in the headlines repeatedly since marrying more than two dozen gay couples in February is included in Mad's December issue, featuring the "latest batch of has-beens," *Smiley Face*.

West joins the likes of Scott Peterson's former mistress Amber Frey and Kentucky Derby and Freakshow winner Smiley Face.

## Math test questioned

WASHINGTON — The national test of student math skills is filled with easy questions, raising doubts about recent claims of achievement tests, a study contends.

On the eighth-grade version of the test, almost 40 percent of the questions address skills taught in first or second grade, according to the report by Tom Loveless, director of the Brown Center on Education Policy at The Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

The central fault, Loveless contends, is that too many problem-solving questions rely on whole numbers, with too few challenges involving fractions, decimals and percentages.

## Calif. housing costs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A fourth of all Californians are thinking about moving — either out of state or just to another town — to bring down their housing costs, a new survey shows.

High rents and rising home prices have residents, particularly younger ones, rethinking the value of the mountain views from their homes and the treasure. Of the respondents under 35, for example, nearly half say they might relocate to somewhere less expensive.

Sixty percent of the respondents worry their children won't be able to buy homes in their part of the state.

From The Associated Press



# Hospital mistakes a growing concern

BY CECI CONNOLLY  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Americans are increasingly worried about dangerous — even deadly — mistakes in hospitals, but an overwhelming majority say the solution lies in easy-to-read, published safety report cards, not more medical lawsuits, a national survey released Wednesday found.

Five years after the Institute of Medicine issued a landmark report on widespread, preventable deaths in U.S. hospitals, the new poll shows confidence in the healthcare system has declined and pressure to reform it has grown.

More than half of 2,000 adults surveyed say they are dissatisfied with the quality of health care, up from 44 percent in 2000. At the same time, 92 percent said reporting of medical errors should be mandatory, according to the poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation,

the Harvard School of Public Health and the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Despite enormous frustration, few people indicated a desire to use the courts as recourse, calling into question policymakers' renewed interest in malpractice legislation, said Harvard pollster Robert Blendon.

"They do not view the malpractice system as the way to resolve these problems," he said. "They would like the medical errors reported by a public agency, have the agency release it and then have it printed in some kind of Consumer Reports, and then they can go somewhere else" for care.

About one-third of those surveyed said either they or a family member had experienced a medical error, yet only 11 percent of them said they had sued for malpractice. By much larger margins, respondents favored remedies such as suspending the license of a doctor or nurse who makes medical errors.

# Massachusetts wedded bliss

## Gay couples enjoy joys of married life year after ruling

BY JENNIFER PETER  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Since the highest court in Massachusetts declared that the state constitution guarantees gays the right to marry, it's the intangible joys — not the material benefits — that newlyweds say they savor.

While marriage entitles gay couples to state financial protections and familial rights, many instead talk about a feeling of acceptance.

"I've been called 'Mrs.," said Gail Leondar-Wright, who married Betsy, her partner of 13 years, on May 23. "None of us ever thought we would be called a 'Mrs.'"

Rod and Lindel Hart revel in the simple act of checking off the "married" box on applications, even on federal forms that do not recognize their union.

"I will never, ever check the 'single' box again," said Rod, 31, of Greenfield.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court made the state the first to sanction same-sex marriages a year ago Thursday, and the aftershocks are evident in the daily lives of the thousands of couples who took vows they once didn't believe possible.

The effects also were evident after this year's elections, when 11 states pushed through constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, joining six others that had done so earlier. President Bush has promised to make a federal anti-gay marriage amendment a priority of his second term.

Massachusetts is also working on a new ban that would conform with the court's ruling by allowing civil unions.

According to an Associated Press review of wedding certificates publicly recorded with the state since May 17, when the court decision took effect, at least 21 certificates have been filed by same-sex couples.

In April 2001, seven gay and les-



Tanya McCloskey, left, and Marsha Kadish of Malden, Mass., were one of the first gay couples to legally wed in the United States. It was a year ago Thursday that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state constitution guaranteed same-sex couples the right to marry.

## Paper anniversary

It's been one year since the Massachusetts high court ruled that gays have the right to marry in the state.

Since the decision took effect, nearly 3,000 certificates have been filed by same-sex couples.

Here comes the bride: While it entitles them to rights and protections, many gay married couples emphasize a feeling of acceptance.

Can it last? Massachusetts lawmakers have a new gay-marriage ban in the works that would conform with the court's ruling by allowing civil unions. It won lawmakers' approval this year, but must be approved in a consecutive session before it's submitted to voters in 2006.

— The Associated Press

bian couples who were denied marriage licenses in Massachusetts filed suit challenging the state's gay marriage ban. Two and a half years later, a deeply divided Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found there was "no rational reason" for such a ban under the state's constitution and ordered the state to start allowing

gays to marry six months later.

"It feels good that there's somewhere in the United States where it's not a big deal," said Brenda Henson, 59, of Centerville, Miss., who married Wanda, her partner of 20 years, earlier this year in Massachusetts.

"They welcomed us with open arms."

# House debates \$800B debt-limit increase

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats and Republicans clashed over deficits and tax cuts Thursday as Congress moved toward sending President Bush an \$800 billion boost in the government's debt limit.

The bill would increase the debt ceiling from its current \$7.38 trillion, marking the third massive increase. Bush took office in 2001. The government reached the cap last month, paying its bills since with investments from a civil service retirement account, which it plans to repay.

The Senate approved the legislation Wednesday by a near party line 52-44 vote. With no alternative but an unprecedented federal default, the House debated the bill Thursday and planned an evening vote.

Democrats were ready to oppose the measure en masse, saying it should have been accom-

panied by a requirement that tax cuts or new spending be paid for with budget savings. They blamed Bush's tax cuts for the relentless increases in government debt, a trend analysts expect to continue indefinitely, and noted that Republicans delayed the vote until after the Nov. 2 elections.

Republicans accused Democrats of playing politics with the issue. They blamed the recession for the red ink and said failure to increase the debt limit would cause default, higher interest rates and an inability of the government to pay its liabilities.

The debate came as lawmakers moved toward finishing their work for the year and ending what they hope will be an abbreviated lame-duck session.

Completion of the debt limit measure would raise the government's borrowing limit to \$8.18 trillion, or \$2.2 trillion higher than when Bush became president.

# Recount ordered in record-tight Washington governor's race

BY REBECCA COOK  
The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Never in Washington state has a governor's race been so close.

Only 261 votes separated the two candidates after a painstaking tally that triggered an automatic recount, required whenever the margin of victory is fewer than 2,000 ballots.

For the time being, Republican Dino Rossi is out in front of Democrat Christine Gregoire. They should know by next Wednesday — so says Secretary of State Sam Reed — who will replace outgoing Democratic Gov. Gary Locke.

A statewide recount has never reversed the outcome of an election, but Reed isn't saying that won't happen after the 2.8 million ballots are tallied — again.

"We really aren't going to know before we do this recount who the winner is going to be," Reed, a Republican who will oversee the recount, said Wednesday.

At his Bellevue campaign headquarters, Rossi told supporters he hopes to take his family on vacation during the recount, "somewhere quieter than here." He went on to thank his wife, four children, sisters, sisters and cousins. "I've got a lot of relatives," the state senator joked, "probably about 261."

Gregoire, the state attorney general, re-

assured cheering crowds in Seattle that the election isn't over.

"We're going to make sure, in this recount, every single vote counts," Gregoire vowed. "This is not about Republican or Democrat, Libertarian or Independent, this is about all of us as Washingtonians, standing up, casting our ballots."

The breathtaking closeness was reflected in Wednesday's horse race. Rossi began the day 19 votes ahead, but King County's 4 p.m. report gave Gregoire a 39-vote lead. Gregoire's lead thinned as the sun set. At 5:14 p.m., Rossi went ahead by four votes.



Rossi



Gregoire

At 5:59, Gregoire took the lead by 13 votes. Finally, at 6:33 p.m., Benton County put Rossi ahead by 261 votes.

Washington leans Democrat and has not elected a Republican governor since 1980. Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry won the state with 53 percent of the vote; the current governor, Locke, easily defeated Republican opponents to serve two terms; and Democrats control the Legislature.

As political junkies across the country recovered from their presidential election withdrawal, they turned to the Washington governor's race for entertainment.

"It's fun, it's exciting," said Joe Arko, a retired doctor in Plano, Texas, who has followed the Washington election religiously on the Internet. "It's like a two-week play-off series. But it's a lot more important than a ball game."

## IN THE WORLD

## Iran: Iran trying to fit missiles for war

BY ALAN CLENDENNING

The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — The United States has intelligence indicating Iran is trying to fit missiles to carry nuclear weapons, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said.

Powell partially confirmed claims by an Iranian opposition group that Tehran is deceiving the United Nations and is attempting to secretly continue activities meant to give it atomic arms by next year.

"I have seen intelligence which would corroborate what this dissent group is saying," Powell told reporters Wednesday as he traveled to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Santiago. "And it should be of concern to all parties."

Pressed by reporters on the intelligence reports, Powell said the intelligence indicates that Iran



Sec. of State Colin Powell

"had been actively working on delivery systems" capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

Traveling with U.S. President George W. Bush to Arkansas on Thursday, press secretary Scott

McClellan said Iran has "spent quite a bit of time over the years hiding their program and their intentions."

Powell said there is no evidence to suggest that Iran has developed the technology to make a nuclear weapon, but suggested that the regime is working to adapt missiles for nuclear warheads.

"I'm talking about information that says that they not only had these missiles, but I'm aware of information that suggests they were working hard as to how to put the two together," Powell said.

A senior official for the National Council for Resistance in Iran said Tuesday that a bomb diagram — along with an unspecified amount of weapons-grade uranium — was provided to Iran by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced former head of Pakistan's nuclear development which was tied to both Iran and Libya.

He said the designs were handed to the Iranians between 1994 and 1996, while Khan delivered HEU — highly enriched uranium — in 2001.

Banned in the United States as a terrorist organization, the group was instrumental in 2002 in revealing the enrichment program in the central city of Natanz, based on what it said was information provided by sources in Iran.

The opposition group says a facility at Lavizian-Shian northeast of Tehran was part of a secret nuclear weapons program.

Powell declined comment on Khan, but said, "For 20 years, the Iranians have been trying to hide things from the international community."

Iran says its sole interest is to generate nuclear fuel through low-level uranium enrichment, but the United States suspects Iran wants to produce weapons-grade enriched uranium.

Enrichment does not violate the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but the International Atomic Energy Agency wants Iran to scrap enrichment plans as a confidence building measure.

Iran announced suspension of enrichment last week, and the agency said it would hold talks on commitment starting next week, in advance of a Nov. 25 IAEA board meeting.

The pledge reduced Washington's hopes of having the board refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for alleged violations of the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Tehran has not dropped plans to run 50,000 centrifuges to enrich uranium for what it says will be a nuclear reactor to be finished next year. It currently possesses less than 1,000 centrifuges. But if it added 500 centrifuges, experts say Iran would be able to make enough weapons-grade uranium to make a bomb annually.

## Italy offers way out of cloning dispute

BY NICK WADHAM

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Italy has offered a compromise on human cloning that seeks common ground among U.N. member states, which are sharply divided over competing treaties to ban the practice, diplomats said.

It was too early to say whether the compromise will help settle the dispute before Friday, when the U.N. General Assembly's legal committee had planned to vote on the two offers if the sides couldn't agree on one text, Belgian diplomat Marc Peccsteen said.

"We're making progress," Peccsteen told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "We need more playing with words to find the compromise we need, and I don't know if we'll have the time to get to that."

The issue of a global treaty on human cloning has exposed a stark rift in member states' attitudes. A proposal from Costa Rica would ban all human cloning, while the other, from Bel-

gium, would ban reproductive cloning but allow countries to use embryos for stem cell and other research.

The Costa Rican document has 62 co-sponsors including the United States and Italy, while the Belgian offer is supported by 22 mostly European countries. Many Muslim countries are undecided and were courted by both sides Wednesday.

The Italian offer is a modified version of an old Belgian text, Peccsteen said. He said the Italian changes were not acceptable to the Belgians, but talks were continuing.

The document, obtained by The Associated Press, calls on nations to ban attempts to create "human life" through cloning. That's a revision of the old text, which called on nations to prohibit creating "human beings" through cloning.

That change is key because it gets to the heart of the dispute over cloning. Many opponents argue that an embryo is human life, while fewer see it as a human being. This sleight of hand on the

wording could help everyone to agree on a treaty.

Peccsteen acknowledged that at this point, the sides appeared to be seeking something they could interpret how they want to.

"That's what were trying to find, a positive ambiguity that could allow both sides to live with one text," Peccsteen said.

"Unfortunately, 'human life' is not unambiguous enough in a way and that's why we have a problem with it."

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, viewed the Belgian offer favorably but said a vote on the two treaty proposals was still possible.

Either way, observers said the Italian offer may be a sign that the two sides have all but given up trying to agree and are seeking a way to save face and drop the issue.

That's because the Costa Rican and Belgian documents, if passed, would seek a world treaty on cloning. The Italian offer, on the other hand, is only a declaration outlining U.N. member states' stance and would not call for a treaty.

## Chirac, Blair downplay their strains over Iraq

The Associated Press

LONDON — French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister Tony Blair sought to downplay strains in their relationship over the war in Iraq and pledged Thursday to make every effort to revitalize the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

At a joint news conference after the leaders met in London, Blair and Chirac said the differences over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq would not stop them from working closely together on alleviating poverty in Africa, global warming and a host of other issues.

Chirac, an arch critic of the war, called it the "one and only" issue of sharp disagreement between the two countries, adding: "Who is right or wrong, history will tell."

The French leader also said he was "taken aback" by some comments in the French press suggesting strains between the two countries.

He said the two leaders were

on the same track when it came to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We share the same analysis and the same goals," Chirac said, adding there was a "window of opportunity" that could lead to "more stability, political order and we should do everything we can to achieve that."

Blair, Washington's most important ally in the invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein, pressed President Bush in a meeting last week for a Middle East conference early next year and the appointment of a special envoy for the region to jump-start the peace process after Yasser Arafat's death.

A more testing subject for the two leaders has been Europe's relationship with the United States and Bush.

Blair views Britain as a diplomatic bridge between the two countries. Chirac, however, foresees the development of a multipolar world where a stronger European Union could act as a counterbalance to the United States.

## Finì Italy's new foreign minister

ROME — Gianfranco Fini, a right-wing leader who has turned his party from Neo-Fascist to mainstream conservative, was appointed Thursday as Italy's new foreign minister in the Cabinet reshuffle.

Fini was Italy's fourth foreign minister since Premier Silvio Berlusconi took office in 2001. He replaces Franco Frattini, who has become Italy's new European commissioner.

Fini's appointment, which had been expected, was confirmed by government minister Giovanni Alemanno after a Cabinet meeting in Rome. Fini and Berlusconi then went to the Quirinale presidential palace to get the approval of President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.

The 52-year-old Fini, himself a former Neo-Fascist, has steadily remodeled his image into that of a moderate conservative.

## Alitalia flights canceled due to strike

ROME — More than 170 Alitalia flights will be canceled

Friday when air traffic controllers walk off their jobs for four hours, the Italian airline said.

The nation-wide strike was scheduled to start at noon. Alitalia said Thursday that 78 domestic flights and 94 international flights would be canceled, while several flights would be rescheduled.

## Russia accedes to Kyoto Protocol

NAIROBI, Kenya — Russia formally notified the United Nations of its acceptance of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, starting a three-month countdown for the long-delayed 1997 pact on cutting greenhouse gas emissions to come into force.

President Vladimir Putin signed the protocol into law earlier this month, allowing it to take effect in 128 nations that ratified it, said U.N. environmental agency spokesman Eric Falt. The United States has refused to join.

On Thursday, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Andrei Denisov, turned over the accession documents to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Nairobi, where the U.N. Security Council is holding a rare meeting outside its New York headquarters.

## Russia developing new nuclear missiles

MOSCOW — Russia is developing a new nuclear missile system unlike any weapon held by other nuclear powers, President Vladimir Putin said, in a move that could serve as a signal to the United States as Washington pushes forward with a missile defense system.

Putin gave no details about the new system and it was unclear whether Russia's cash-strapped armed forces could even afford an expensive new weapon. But he told the top leadership of Russia's armed forces that the system could be deployed soon.

ITAR-Tass indicated the new system could be a mobile version of the Topol-M ballistic missiles, which have been deployed in silos since 1988. But Alexander Flayev, a senior analyst with Moscow's Institute for Global Economy and International Relations, said Putin seemed to be referring to the new Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile that underwent its first test in September.

From The Associated Press

# The dollar reaches new low against euro

BY GEIR MOULSON  
The Associated Press

BERLIN — The U.S. dollar dropped to a new all-time low against the euro Wednesday as the European currency rose to \$1.30 amid deep skepticism over Washington's commitment to a "strong dollar" policy.

Persistent worries over high oil prices and the U.S. trade and budget deficits have pushed the dollar to new depths against the 12-nation euro in recent weeks.

Last Wednesday, it rose above \$1.30 for the first time since its launch in 1999, spiking up to \$1.307 — prompting European politicians to voice concern that the rally could hurt the continent's export-driven recovery.

The latest rise came as U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow visits Europe. At the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, he refused to comment on the euro hitting a new high against the dollar.

Snow insisted that there had been no

change in the administration's support for a strong dollar. He also reiterated the administration believes international currency markets should be left to set the dollar's value.

"We believe in open, competitive currency markets," he said.

"We think the world functions best with free trade and free capital flows. Nobody has ever deviated their way to prosperity."

Still, many analysts believe the administration has decided to voice support for a strong dollar to avoid rattling currency markets but to refrain from intervening to halt the dollar's fall since a weaker dollar will help lower the U.S. trade deficit by helping American exports.

"There is no single event that set off this movement today," said Dorothea Huttanus, an economist at DZ Bank in Frankfurt. She cited persistent doubts over the health of the U.S. economy and added that "doubts about the strong dollar policy won't go away" despite Snow's statements.

"The financial community doesn't believe him any more," Huttanus said.

The current rally has taken the euro from about \$1.20 two months ago, prompting European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet to call the surge "brutal" last week. Huttanus said she expected more such verbal interventions — although no action by the bank on currency markets — should the euro continue moving toward \$1.35.

For the countries that use the euro, the stronger currency raises fears that it will snuff out their moderate, export-driven economic recovery by making exports more expensive. But it takes much of the sting out of high oil prices on the continent, since oil is priced in dollars and the strong euro makes it relatively cheaper.

The euro, launched in 1999, languished under \$1.00 for about 2½ years between 2000 and mid-2002. It is now more than 57 percent above its all-time low against the dollar of 82 cents, reached in October 2000.

## The Damned unwelcome

CAMBRIDGE, England — A clergyman has criticized a city's decision to ask an aging punk band to switch on its annual civic display of Christmas lights.

The Damned, the Rev. Stephen Leeke said Wednesday, don't really encapsulate the spirit of the season.

"I do not think they are the best people to be switching on the Christmas lights," said Leeke, vicar of St. Martin's Church in Cambridge, 50 miles north of London. "I think perhaps it would be more appropriate for them to switch them off."

"It just seems to me to be a bit of a culture clash in launching the city's Christmas celebrations with a group who really haven't been renowned with looking at the positive side of life and Christmas principles," he said.

The band, which sprang from London's mid-'70s punk scene and released songs including "Problem Child" and "Suicide," is due to switch on the town's seasonal decorations Sunday.

## A burdensome name

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Annoyed by problems he encounters daily, Jonas Jonaitis has decided that his uncommon name is providing for some decidedly common problems, and he wants to be paid for it.

In Lithuania, Jonas Jonaitis is the abstract name of choice used by dozens of banks, finance companies and others to illustrate their customer brochures and more. It's akin to the use of the name John Smith in the United States or Ivan Ivanov in Russia.

For the real Jonaitis, that's meant a lot of lost time trying to explain to cashiers and store clerks that he is who he says he is.

## Cop arrested in robbery

PATRAS, Greece — A 23-year-old policeman was arrested in southern Greece after allegedly robbing a bank and then visiting a nearby coffee shop to play a game of backgammon, authorities said Wednesday.

The officer, who was not named, was arrested Tuesday in Kato Achayia, near the southern port city of Patras, after allegedly snatching just over 5,000 euros, or \$6,500, while wearing a crash helmet. He allegedly threatened staff at a branch of the private Alpha bank with his police handgun.

The suspect told police he had robbed the bank to pay off credit card debts, Tsouvaras said.

## Bus driver proposes

OSLO, Norway — One passenger aboard an express bus to Oslo was more surprised than the rest by the driver's announcement over the loudspeaker.

"Right behind me is a fair-haired treasure," the driver, 39-year-old Oeivind Martinson, announced, continuing:

"Jeanette, will you marry me?" The other passengers, though surprised, applauded and then quieted down to hear the response on Friday's trip from the southern town of Fredrikstad to Oslo.

When Johansen, 33, said "Yes," the busload of people burst into thunderous applause and celebration, the Oslo newspaper Dagbladet reported Monday.

From The Associated Press

# Locusts swarm into Egypt, causing havoc

BY PAUL GARWOOD  
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — In an echo of the biblical plagues, millions of locusts swarmed into northern Egypt on Wednesday for the first time in 50 years, prompting authorities to order emergency pesticide spraying to protect the region's important agriculture industry.

Millions of the red insects, up to 2½ inches long, flitted about over Cairo, while others hopped about on rooftops. By evening,

the skies were clear.

Christian Pantenius, program coordinator of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization office in Egypt, said the swarm was the offshoot of a serious locust infestation in West Africa that was blown by strong winds across the Sahara. He said locusts were also spotted in Crete and Lebanon.

Pantenius said the locusts were showing no sign of moving farther south along the agriculturally rich Nile River valley,

and he predicted the swarm most likely would head southeast toward the Red Sea coast, which is an annual locust breeding ground between November and March.

Locusts, which normally live between two and six months, eat their weight — about 0.07 ounces — in crops every day. They can travel as much as 120 miles a day.

"People are very afraid that it may cause damage to agricultural production, but to what extent

the agricultural sector could be damaged is difficult to say," Pantenius said. Agriculture Minister Ahmed el-Leitby said the locusts appeared to pose no serious threat to Egypt's crops "because the swarms are continuing to move and are not fully grown." But he said 50 pest eradication teams had been rushed out to spray pesticides in farm areas.

Farmers without pesticides set smoke traps and made loud noises with machinery in hopes of keeping locusts away from their fields.

# Chileans quickly take advantage of 1st divorce law

BY EDUARDO GALLARDO  
The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chile's first divorce law took effect Thursday, prompting a number of Chileans to trek to the courts to legally dissolve marriages that had long ago failed.

The country's justice minister heralds the law as a historic step while ordinary Chileans like Maria Victoria Torres see it as something more personal — "a window that opens to look at a new life with dignity, without fear."

As the Santiago Court of Appeals opened its doors Thursday, Torres was there with minister for Women's Affairs Cecilia Perez and her lawyer, Julia Acevedo, to file the first divorce case based on the new law.

They were not alone: engineer Julio Jaramil, contractor Boris Naranjo and housewife Guillermina Gonzalez also filed for divorce.

Two hours after the courts opened for business, 32 people filed in court in the capital, Santiago — less than expected. No figures were available for other areas.

The law was passed by congress six months ago, amid strong opposition by the Catholic Church and conservative groups, but legislators gave time to judges to study it and the courts to implement the necessary administrative changes to face the new situation.

"This is a historic day for our nation," said Justice Minister Luis Bates. But he also urged Chileans to be cautious before resorting to the new law.

Chile was one of the last countries in the Western Hemisphere without a divorce law.

Until now, couples with failing marriages were forced to resort to subterfuges to obtain annulments, with about 6,000 annulments approved every year in the country of 15.5 million people.



Maria Victoria Torres, left, is comforted by her lawyer, Julia Acevedo, as she leaves a Court of Appeals after filing for divorce in Santiago, Chile, on Thursday — the day Chile's first divorce law ever became effective.

AP

One common play was for one of the parties to declare before a court that their marriage was illegal because one spouse reported a false address at the time of the marriage.

Maria Victoria Torres, tears in her eyes after filing for divorce, said she sees the law "as a new window that opens to look at a new life with dignity, without fear."

She based her request on what she called "25 years of continued violence" from her husband, from whom she has in fact been separated for several months.

"This law will allow me to recover my dignity and my freedom in a legitimate manner," Torres told The Associated Press.

An annulment under the old system cost legal fees that often reached about \$670 or country where the minimum wage is about \$190 or half of the cost for annulments because less legal maneuvering is required.

The new law allows couples to get a divorce order after they have been separated for at least one year, if both spouses agree, and three years if only one party agrees.

The waiting period can be avoided if one member of the couple proves there have been violations of marital duties by a partner, such as violence, homosexuality, prostitution, drug addiction or a criminal conviction.

The new law, replacing century-old legislation, also requires couples seeking a divorce to undergo counseling for at least 60 days.

## STARS AND STRIPES

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## Infantry is as infantry does

I have served 16 years in the infantry, four as an active-duty Marine and the remainder with the National Guard. I currently serve as a rifle squad leader in Baghdad, and have been here for more than seven months. I have three points to offer in the great debate over who should wear a Combat Infantryman Badge.

First: Who cares? What is the Army's obsession with trinkets to hang on uniforms?

Every individual knows exactly what he/she did in service to the nation. Isn't that enough?

Second: The CIB is an inappropriate award for the counterinsurgency operations that dominate the Iraq war. It was created to acknowledge the very distinct, dangerous and miserable experience of the World War II infantryman, a conflict where (arguably) the infantry comprised 90 percent of the total force and suffered 90 percent of the casualties. The Korean and Vietnam wars, although quite different in some ways, were similar in this respect to WWII. The conflict in Iraq cannot be directly compared to any of those wars in scope, degree of carnage or hardship. I suggest following the Marine Corps' example of awarding a combat action ribbon or its equivalent universally to all troops who have direct contact with the enemy. Save the CIB for the high-intensity wars for which it was intended.

Third: If the Army must continue awarding the CIB for low-intensity warfare, then it should be awarded to anyone who operates as a de facto infantryman, regardless of military occupational specialty. How does an engineer, artilleryman, military policeman or any other soldier in scope, degree of carnage or hardship live in reality from an 11B? Training? So what? The simple fact of the matter is that in this type of warfare the infantry experience is no longer unique in its degree of hardship or peril.

My CIB resides in my personnel records. I don't wear it because when I think of the infantry veterans of previous, high-intensity wars I don't feel I earned it. Others may well feel differently.

Staff Sgt. Kurt Hosman  
Baghdad

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## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorial issues or items that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Via fax: (Country code +49) (0) 6155/601395; DSN 349-8399

E-mail: letters@mail.strips.es.mil

get a CIB, go to Fallujah, Mosul or even

Hafin Street in central Baghdad. Our FOB

started off with approximately 600 personnel

and has taken massive casualties from

actions in sector. My company alone has

had 50 percent of its personnel awarded

Purple Hearts, and our sister company

has awarded more than 60 Purple Hearts.

Tell me how being engaged by small-arms

fire or having mortars land in your FOB

qualifies you to wear an award given strictly

to one MOC.

On a final note, to all the personnel who

deem it necessary to go out with a combat

unit to get a CIB or Combat Military

Badges don't see you just putting yourself

in harm's way for no reason. The bragging

rights and medals aren't worth the risk

you're taking to get them. Everyone has a

job to do over here. Use your training and

pull all the stops out to get your families in

one piece. God speed and good luck.

Staff Sgt. Justin Chestnut

Forward Operating Base Independence, Iraq

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arms crossed in front of them while their earn squad leader did the same thing. Earn your paycheck and make your Joes do the right thing.

To the NCOs doing the right thing, thank you. And to the NCOs bringing shame to the military, take off the brim, because you don't deserve it.

Sgt. George E. Harris



## OPINION

## America needs debate in cabinet meetings

BY MARTIN SCHRAM

Scripts Howard

The nomination of Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state should be celebrated as yet another triumph of the principle that has made Washington all that it is today.

It is not Bush's principle, per se. Nor Clinton's, nor Rumsfeld's. It is Peter's.

Peter Principle, noun. "The theory that employees within an organization will advance to their highest level of competence and then promoted to and remain at a level at which they are incompetent." (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.) It was just one year ago that President Bush — his pre-war assertions of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction disproved and postwar Iraq security disintegrated — announced with fanfare that National Security Adviser Condi Rice would head a newly created Iraq Stabilization Group to coordinate interagency efforts.

Today it is pertinent to recall how this corner covered that news: "In a startling and bold turnaround that rocked Washington's policy wonks and pundits, President Bush has announced that his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, will now start doing her job."

After all, coordination of Pentagon/CIA-State conflicts was the core of an NSC adviser's job. It's the Rice failed to do. Analyses that went against the Bush-Cheney-Rummy take for invading Iraq were dismissed or deep-sixed, as were military warnings that inadequate troop levels would lead to postwar disaster.

In time, that negative assessment of Rice's performance became widely shared by experts of various persuasions and per-

spectives. The report of the 9/11 commission assessed Rice's failings, especially her failure to act on warnings received from staff counterterrorism expert Richard Clarke.

■ Jan. 25, 2001: Clarke wrote of the "urgent need" for a high-level meeting on al-Qaida. It didn't happen until seven days before 9/11.

■ March 23: Clarke warned that terrorists must attack the White House with a truck-bomb; also, al-Qaida and other terrorist cells were operating in the United States.

■ May 29: Clarke wrote that a Palestinian with al-Qaida ties might launch attacks. "When those attacks occur, as they likely will, we will wonder what more we could have done to stop them."

■ June 25: Clarke warned that "six separate intelligence reports showed al-Qaida personnel warning of a pending attack."

■ June 28: Clarke warned that indications al-Qaida was preparing an attack "had reached a crescendo."

■ June 30: Clarke wrote a report to Rice and others titled "Bin Ladin Planning High-Profile Attacks." On Aug. 6, other analysts included in the "President's Daily Brief" a short report titled: "Bin Ladin Determined to Strike in U.S."

All these show why Rice probably was the worst national security adviser in the modern era. But the greatest shortcoming of the 46-year-old ex-academic may have been her reluctance to firmly counter her "Very Important Elders" — Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Indeed, she once told an interviewer that she was "the baby" of that elite group.

(Timeout: The sound you are hearing is that of one mind boggling. I just tried to conjure the image of another 46-year-old ex-academic NSC adviser — Henry Kissinger — saying he was "the baby" of Nixon's team.)



democratic NSC adviser — Henry Kissinger — saying he was "the baby" of Nixon's team.)

... Now Washington is adjusting to a new era where principle rules — the Peter Principle. After all, we'll soon inaugurate a president who won on a record of policy successes in all areas except foreign and domestic.

Rice as secretary of state wins no applause from another hard-line Bush Republican who has been there and done that.

"She is not the person for that job," Lawrence Eagleburger, a secretary of state for President George H.W. Bush, bluntly told CNN's "Paula Zahn Now" show.

"I do not believe that you should have in the secretary of state someone who has spent their last four years in the White House next to the president. I do believe you need tension between the State Department,

the Defense Department and the National Security Council."

Eagleburger should know. He was executive assistant to Kissinger when Nixon named Kissinger secretary of state — and let him keep his NSC adviser job, too.

Eagleburger saw from high and inside what can go wrong. So Eagleburger isn't comforted by Bush's equally principled choice to replace Rice: her loyal deputy, Stephen Hadley.

Eagleburger bemoans: "Everybody is going to speak the Kissinger language."

There is one more principle we should have learned — if not from Eagleburger's Kissinger years, then from our last four years. We are at risk any time a national security staff is recast as a bunch of bobbles-heads, mindlessly nodding yes to any and all.

## TV: 'Where never is heard a discouraging word'?

WASHINGTON — When ABC's affiliate stations are afraid to broadcast "Saving Private Ryan" for fear of being fined by the Federal Communications Commission, it makes me wonder about the new moral order that some people think is on the rise.

## Clarence Page

I can't say for sure, but if Oscar-winning director Steven Spielberg's World War II epic *Saving Private Ryan* and America's troops is off limits to the networks, ABC's "Desperate Housewives" had better watch their backs. Even though "Saving Private Ryan" aired uncensored and without public uproar in 2001 and 2002, about 65 of ABC's more than 220 affiliate stations refused to air the movie this Veterans Day.

What's changed? History and politics. First, there was Janet Jackson's breast-baring wardrobe malfunction at this year's Super Bowl, which led to heavy fines against CBS and its affiliates.

The stations tried to get an advance ruling on "Saving Private Ryan" but, as an FCC spokeswoman told The Hollywood Reporter, "that would be censorship."

With no FCC guidelines to guide them, stations serving about a third of the nation censored themselves.

Another factor in their decision was the reputed rise of "moral values" as a defining issue in recent elections. "We're just coming off an election where moral issues were cited as a reason by people voting one way or another," Ray Cole, president of Citadel Communications, which

owns three Midwestern stations, told The Associated Press. "And, in my opinion, the [FCC] commissioners are fearful of the new Congress."

But a closer look at Election Day exit polls indicates the reputed rise in social conservatism may be a false media-generated perception. Exit polls conducted nationally by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International showed "moral values" with 22 percent, beat "economy and jobs" (20 percent), "terrorism" (19 percent) and "Iraq" (16 percent) as the issue of greatest importance to voters.

The Pew Research Center found similar results with a post-election poll of 1,209 voters. But when Pew offered a wider range of choices, "moral values" fell to only 14 percent, behind "Iraq" (25 percent) and ahead of "jobs and the economy" (12 per-

cent) and "terrorism" (9 percent). ...

No, it is not in the media, biased toward anything that sounds new, who inflated the importance of "moral values." Within hours, "moral values" became a durably defining issue of 2004 like "soccer moms" in 1996 and 1994's "angry white males."

It is not even clear what the voters who mentioned "moral values" had in mind. Did they mean, for example, that the racy, yet realistic language of "Saving Private Ryan" was enough to take it away from those who wanted to see it on TV without having to buy a cable TV subscription? The American Family Association of Tupelo, Miss., thinks so. The long-time TV *Unsung* group is urging viewers to complain to the FCC about the movie's "at least 20 'f' words and 12 's' words," even though it approves of the movie's patriotic themes.

When I asked AFA President Tim Wildmon, son of founder Don Wildmon, in a telephone interview if he perceived that the FCC is putting a chill on artistic creativity by the networks, he responded, "Good! They need to be chilled a little bit."

Do they? If there is anything we do not need to encourage in network television, it is more blandness. ...

[The saucy language in Spielberg's film has redeeming social value, to use the Supreme Court's famous phrase. Its language, like its brutal violence, is an integral part of the riveting realism that makes the Oscar-winning movie a uniquely effective cinematic tribute to the heroism of ordinary Americans at war.]

If there is any production with which parents can be trusted to decide the viewing habits of their household, this is it.

Clarence Page is a Chicago Tribune columnist.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## YOUR MONEY

## Consumer Reports releases car reviews

## European vehicles get low marks; Japanese brands rank among top

BY DON HAMMONDS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The reliability of European cars is so bad that not a single one made Consumer Reports' "New Car Preview 2005" issue. In fact, 10 of the highly respected magazine's 11 lowest-rated sedans hailed from across the Atlantic, including high-priced Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar and BMW brands.

Germany's Volkswagen came in for particularly hard hits, with most of its products, including the Golf, Jetta and New Beetle, receiving ratings far below average for reliability.

Japanese brands, on the other hand, continued to rank at the top, with Toyota, Lexus and Scion dominating the listings. And American brands Buick Regal, which has been discontinued, and the non-supercharged version of the Pontiac Grand Prix won the annual publication's highest reliability ratings.

The results are based on an annual Consumer Reports survey that relies on the voluntary participation of 810,000 car and truck owners.

The data on products built between 1997 and 2004 is analyzed to predict the reliability of 2005 models.

The problems with European

cars mainly dealt with "electrical systems and power equipment," such as alternators, wiring motors, switches, window controls, seats, windows, door locks and sunroofs, said David Champion, director of automobile testing for Consumer Reports.

"It can be anything that stops working and makes customers take the car into the dealers to get repaired," he said.

Part of the problem, Champion said, is that Europeans don't really understand how important reliability is to American buyers.

It's not so much major engine or powertrain items that leave drivers stranded on the side of the road that are the issue, but continual smaller problems that keep cropping up that force owners to take the car back to the dealer, Champion said.

"Time is money," he said. "You take it one month, and next month it's something else, and then the month after that, too. You get to the point where you say, 'I will not buy that car ever again.' A big reason why so many problems are occurring with European brands is the increasing complexity of the cars themselves, Champion said. They are loaded with features and gizmos, "and the more you have, the more likely the chance is that one



This updated photo released by the BMW Group shows the new 2005 convertible Mini Cooper. BMW brands are among European cars that ranked low in Consumer Reports' "New Car Preview 2005."

of them will go wrong," he said. "It makes the car considerably more complicated to put together."

Not surprisingly, European automakers dispute the Consumer Reports findings.

"Our own tracking shows we are making considerable year-to-year improvements in quality across all the model ranges," said Mercedes-Benz spokesman James M. Resnick. "This data is volunteered by Consumer

Reports' readers; it is not verified. It does not correlate to our own data or that of other third-party surveys."

BMW officials were equally puzzled about the test results.

"We feel confident that the reliability of the BMW 7 Series models (that fared poorly) will be far better than what the predictor survey indicates," said BMW spokesman Dave Butchko.

The S Series sedans, which also fared poorly, "are a little bit more difficult matter. These are brand new models," so the surveys only reflect six months of data, Butchko said.

cars that earned Consumer Reports' highest reliability ratings were manufactured by Toyota and its Scion and Lexus divisions: the Lexus LS300, Toyota Prius, Scion xB and Toyota Corolla.

Korean automaker Hyundai also won a spot on the most reliable cars list with the Sonata.

The results of the Consumer Report survey largely match the findings of J.D. Power and Associates' initial quality survey for new car quality after 90 days of ownership and its vehicle durability survey done after three years of ownership. Those surveys also found that European models have higher-than-average problems reported by their owners.

Half of the sedans and small

## WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
52-week	High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week	High
10,753.13	10,526.50	10,410.00	Dow Jones Industrial	10,540.57	+1.50	+0.01	+8.87	10,540.57	10,526.50
3,628.28	2,743.46	2,600.00	Dow Jones Transportation	3,606.46	+28.77	+0.79	+19.73	+25.59	3,606.46
21,311.21	24,126.00	23,800.00	Dow Jones Utilities	23,819.00	-2.56	-0.01	+22.21	+21.62	23,819.00
7,014.13	5,927.45	5,800.00	NYSE Composite	7,013.46	+54.16	+0.78	+8.90	+15.73	7,013.46
1,358.06	1,064.93	1,050.00	Amex Index	1,065.76	+124.16	+11.60	+47.81	+11.60	1,065.76
2,153.83	1,750.82	1,700.00	Nasdaq Composite	2,099.68	-21.06	-0.11	+4.81	+16.53	2,099.68
1,184.40	1,031.20	1,020.00	S&P 500	1,031.94	+45.31	+0.44	+5.55	+10.38	1,031.94
62.38	54.35	54.00	S&P 500 P/E	63.05	+0.71	+0.01	+0.25	+15.82	63.05
62.38	51.90	51.00	Russell 2000	52.97	+5.68	+0.11	+1.86	+18.52	52.97
11,616.62	10,959.28	10,900.00	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,680.88	+65.31	+0.57	+7.42	+14.23	11,680.88

NYSE									
Most Active (\$1 or more)									
Name	Vol	01	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	01	Last	Chg
Accurix	680,348	1.35	+1.12	Nasdaq	2,099,680	21.06	-0.11	2,099.68	-0.11
Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	31.00	+1.00
Lument	39,608	1.00	+0.00	Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	31.00	+1.00
Pfizer	386,666	27.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
Novartis	348,889	25.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
Novartis	2,511,111	11.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
AMD	22,590	21.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
Novartis	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
Novartis	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
Novartis	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00

AMEX									
Most Active (\$1 or more)									
Name	Vol	01	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	01	Last	Chg
Accurix	680,348	1.35	+1.12	Nasdaq	2,099,680	21.06	-0.11	2,099.68	-0.11
Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	31.00	+1.00
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Novartis	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00

NASDAQ									
Most Active (\$1 or more)									
Name	Vol	01	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	01	Last	Chg
Accurix	680,348	1.35	+1.12	Nasdaq	2,099,680	21.06	-0.11	2,099.68	-0.11
Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	31.00	+1.00
Lument	39,608	1.00	+0.00	Amgen	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	31.00	+1.00
Pfizer	386,666	27.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
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Novartis	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00
Novartis	1,014,131	31.00	+1.00	Shogen	97,120	1.00	+0.00	1.00	+0.00

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
British pound	\$1	\$1.3722
Japanese yen (Nov. 19)	\$100	\$0.9100
South Korean won (Nov. 18)	1,000,000	\$0.7100
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1	\$3.7698
British pound	\$1	\$1.3538
Canada (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.1937
Denmark (Krone)	\$1	\$5.84
Egypt (Pound)	\$1	\$1.58
Euro	\$1	\$1.394
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1	\$7.731
Hungary (Forint)	\$1	\$187.64
Indonesia (Rupiah)	\$1	\$1,676.50
Israel (Shekel)	\$1	\$4.382
Japan (Yen)	\$100	\$0.9100
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$1	\$2.9463
Philippines (Peso)	\$1	\$56.30
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	\$1	\$2.9463
Singapore (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.6453
South Korea (Won)	\$1,000,000	\$0.7100
Switzerland (Franc)	\$1	\$1.1937
Taiwan (Dollar)	\$1	\$3.7698
Thailand (Baht)	\$1	\$40.31
United States (Dollar)	\$1	\$1.0000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars and pence, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

London close		
Gold	\$441.50	
Silver	\$16.50	
INTEREST RATES		
Prime rate	5.00	
Discount rate	3.00	
Federal funds market rate	2.50	
3-month bill	2.13	
30-year bond	5.18	
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America		

Cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## Free credit reports

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Beginning Dec. 1, all U.S. residents will be allowed one free credit report per year under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act.

Checking your credit report is a vital step before you invest in a mortgage or take out a personal, business or auto loan. Your credit file can reveal black marks — such as late payments, overdraw charges or other problems — that can prevent you from getting a lender's best interest rates. It also can help you determine if you've been a victim of identity theft.

The so-called FACT Act phases in the one free report per year across the nation, as follows: ■ Dec. 1, 2004: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

■ March 1, 2005: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

■ June 1, 2005: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

■ September 1, 2005: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

If you want your credit report earlier, some states already provide one free credit report per year to their residents. They are: Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Vermont.

# Recovered artifacts help keep Afghan history alive

BY THOMAS H. MAUGH II  
Los Angeles Times

More than 22,000 treasures from the Kabul Museum in Afghanistan, long thought to have been lost in the war against the Soviet Union and the subsequent cultural purge by the Taliban, have been located in bank vaults and other safe places where they were hidden by museum officials.

The priceless Bactrian gold collection, precious ivory, bronze statues and other artifacts of 5,000 years of history on the Orient's Silk Road — virtually all of the museum's most precious items — were preserved despite the devastation engulfing the country, archeologists said Wednesday.

The discovery of the Bactrian gold was announced this summer, but a just-completed inventory revealed that virtually all of the museum's most precious items are intact, said Oxford University archeologist Fredrik T. Hiebert.

In the midst of the resistance against the Soviets, a team of curators in the early 1980s boxed up the most valuable pieces in the museum's collection, stashing them in various vaults around Kabul, the Afghan capital. The curators used small safes, tin boxes, steel containers and anything else they could find at hand.

They then went "dead quiet," said British archeologist Carla Grissman, keeping their knowledge to themselves even as rumors floated widely about the destruction and looting of the museum's contents.

They kept their secrets for a quarter of a century. "These are the real heroes of this story," said Hiebert.

Hiebert was brought in this spring to catalog the gold with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Geographic Society.

Now that the artifacts have been inventoried, they have all been packed up again and stored in a once-again secret location until the government can find a new home for them.

The Kabul Museum has been restored, but security there is not sufficient to protect the artifacts. Curators hope to build a state-of-the-art museum in central Kabul, but no one is sure where the money will come from.

The Kabul Museum was a small facility housed in a 1920s-era federal building about 30 minutes outside the city center. Although it was small, Hiebert noted, "it is said that every piece [it had] was a masterpiece."

Because it straddles the Silk Road that camel caravans used to transport textiles from China to Europe and pottery, artworks and other materials in the opposite direction, Kabul was a prosperous city throughout much of civilization's early history.

As a result, the museum held objects from a string of civilizations that conquered or traveled through the region, including the Bactrians, Kushans, Greeks and Buddhists.

Unfortunately, the museum's neighborhood became a frontline in the fighting against the Soviets and the frontlines was shelled into a windowless, roofless hulk. Many of the artifacts that had not been removed were blasted to shards.



A Chinese worker cleans up a toilet Wednesday at the hotel where the 2004 World Toilet Summit is being held in Beijing, China. The three-day event is expected to attract 150 academics, sanitation experts, toilet designers and environmentalists from 19 countries as far away as the United States, Finland, Germany, Japan and Nepal.

## Toilets No. 1 focus of Beijing summit

BY AUDRA ANG  
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Laugh all you want, say public hygiene experts at the World Toilet Summit, but the importance of "loos" you can use is no joke.

The three-day event, which began Wednesday in Beijing, is an international comode conference. Some 150 scholars, toilet designers and environmentalists from 19 countries gathered to exchange ideas on topics such as the latest toilet technologies, lavatory management tips and the relationship between toilets and tourism development.

"People are saying 'We want good toilets!' because toilets are a basic human right and that basic human right has been neglected," said Jack Sim, founder of the World Toilet Organization, a co-sponsor of the summit.

China, known for fetid public toilets that often are little more than open trenches, is eager to show off its advances while preparing for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Delegates to the conference are to be taken on a tour of new and renovated public toilets in Beijing.

But with a packed conference schedule of slide shows, lectures and question-and-answer sessions, there was very little room for humor.

"You can laugh at it for a short time," said Sim, whose group is based in the hyper-clean island nation of Singapore. "But after a few seconds, you should start to pay serious attention to the subject that affects your quality of life."

The convention is in its fourth year, with Singapore, Seoul and Taipei as previous hosts. Participants this year came from countries as far away as Finland, Japan and the United States.

Photos of showcase lavatories were also displayed at the conference, from a ladybug-shaped one in a public garden to another modeled after a grass hut in a wildlife park. Facilities with baby-changing stations, wheelchair ramps and gleaming white ceramic urnals also were featured.

"New public toilets are an important symbol to demonstrate the development of the city," said Liang Guangsheng, deputy director of Beijing's Municipal Administrative Committee.

In the past three years, Beijing has spent \$29 million on building or renovating 747 restrooms at tourist spots, according to the city government.

"The toilets are sanitary, convenient and private," Yu Changjian, director general of the city's tourism bureau said. The city also aims to make them suitable for users of all ages, for the disabled, and energy and water-efficient.

The city has come up with a rating system of one to four stars for its public wash rooms, reportedly based on such criteria as granite floors, remote-sensor flushes, automatic hand-driers and piped-in music.

The capital now has 88 four-star lavatories, 161 that qualify for three stars, 312 for two and 110 for one. Countless others, are perhaps best not mentioned.

Maintenance is as important as construction, said Simon Tay, one of the speakers at the summit. "It's something that China needs to think about," said Tay, chairman of Singapore's National Environment Agency, a government organization. "I hate the word luxury toilet because, really, good toilets should be an everyday common thing. It doesn't have to look like the Shangri-La to be in order for it to be something that we can be proud of."



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## Divorce deal for sale

**CA** LOS ANGELES — For sale. One ex-wife's \$250 million divorce judgment. All the buyer has to do is figure out how to collect from the Saudi royal family.

After battling for more than 20 years to collect the court-ordered judgment, Diana Bilinelli said she has decided to sell it — at a substantial discount — on the chance that others may have better means to track it down.

"It's a dandy investment opportunity," said her lawyer, Helen Dorob.

Bilinelli's late ex-husband, Sheikh Mohammed al-Fassi, died in Cairo of an infected hernia in 2002 at the age of 50 after claiming he had transferred all his holdings to relatives, including Saudi King Fahd and his brother Prince Turki. According to a court ruling, he owed Bilinelli half his assets.

## Boy killer seeks retrial

**GA** ATLANTA — It was a murder that stunned the nation. Michael Lewis was 13, a boy who stood less than 5 feet tall, when he walked up to a parked car at an Atlanta convenience store in 1997 and shot a stranger dead in front of the man's two sons.

Sociologists called Lewis a "super predator." Prosecutors called the boy known as "Little B" a cold-blooded thug. At 14, Lewis was sentenced to life in prison.

Now a 21-year-old man, Lewis asked Georgia's highest court to give him a new trial, saying he is innocent and wasn't competent because of his age and mental capacity to defend himself.

## Proud to be a loser

**ME** ELLSWORTH — Call Peter Loisel a big fat loser and he'd have to agree.

Between October 2001 and July 2004, the Ellsworth Middle School math teacher lost nearly 500 pounds, and he did it without gastric bypass surgery. He dropped the pounds the old-fashioned way — with diet and exercise.

While Loisel plays down his success, he readily admits having been inconvenienced and emotionally affected by his weight. He wasn't able to be in his sister's wedding because it was impossible to find a tuxedo that fit.

These days, he's the shell of his old self. At his peak, he weighed 763 pounds. Now 6-foot-6 "Big Pete" weighs in around 270.

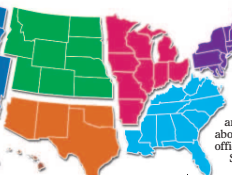
## Lawyer suspected

**WA** SEATTLE — Prosecutors charged a lawyer with attempted first-degree murder Monday in the shooting of a rival attorney who had sought a contempt citation against him.

The prosecutors said William R. Joyce, 50, shot Kevin Jung in the back of the head as Jung sat in a car outside his office. A hearing on the contempt request had been scheduled later in the day.

A witness scribbled down the license plate of Joyce's rented car as it squealed away from the scene, and police tracked him down through the rental company.

Jung, a 44-year-old married fa-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ther of two, remained in critical condition Monday. Doctors said he had serious brain damage, according to the charging documents in King County court.

## Residents sue pueblo

**NM** ISLETA PUEBLO — A group of lifelong residents are suing this Indian pueblo on the south edge of Albuquerque, challenging its determination that they or their heirs don't qualify as tribal members.

The three families involved in the suit are descendants of people who came to Isleta from another pueblo and were adopted into the community. Pueblo Gov. Alvin Lucero declined to comment.

## Burns kill woman

**CA** YUCAIPA — Raymond Gonzalez stared in the distance as he used a red bandana to wipe away the tears, recalling the moment he learned his neighbor died despite his efforts to extinguish flames that engulfed her.

Gonzalez, 81, said his 83-year-old neighbor, Janice White, was alert after he snuffed the fire with a blanket.

Gonzalez wanted to replace the blanket with a fresh one and remove a wrap she was on her head, but White told him to leave the items alone, he said.

"That's why I thought she was going to be all right," he said Tuesday.



## Rock the boat

A boat makes its way through high waves into Government Cut off Miami Beach, Fla. High winds and boat traffic away.

day.  
"I feel sorry, you know."

White's clothes accidentally caught on fire Sunday morning while she was making tea, authorities said.

She suffered second- and third-degree burns over about 70 percent of her body, officials said.

She died the next day.

## Plans for play

**NY** NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that 25 new playgrounds will be built at public schools across the city over the next five years.

The Department of Education will share the \$25 million bill with the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit land conservation organization, Bloomberg said.

City officials said they would decide which schools receive the new playgrounds based on need, and they will likely be in low-income, high-density neighborhoods.

P.S. 180 in Harlem and I.S. 220 in Borough Park, Brooklyn, have already been selected and will have new playgrounds next fall.

The playgrounds will be open to the public after school lets out each day.



## Afternoon stroll

Kathleen O'DeKirk and her dog Winston run in the park in Chicago.



## Hang time

A snowboarder grinds a rail at the Brighton terrain park in Utah.



## Taking GIs fishing

A woman waves an U.S. flag to soldiers aboard charter fishing boats in Islamorada, Fla., as they depart for a day of angling off the Florida Keys. About 60 military personnel took part in free fishing trips during the "Take a Soldier Fishing" program.





**Pardon me** Korey Foltz kneels with a turkey in Mathias, W.Va. Two turkeys from the Foltz farm were sent to the White House for the annual Thanksgiving ceremony. This is the 57th anniversary of the first National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation to President Harry Truman. After the ceremony, the turkeys will be retired to the Kidwell Farm petting zoo at Frying Pan Park.



**Peering down**

A snowy owl is perched on a chimney top in Hazleton, Pa.

## Mom charged in fire

**OH** TOLEDO — The mother of six of seven children killed in an apartment fire was charged with involuntary manslaughter after investigators discovered she was visiting a neighbor at the time, a prosecutor said.

Melinda Ragland was at an apartment about 80 yards away when the blaze started, prosecutor John Weglian said.

"We believe the evidence established that she breached her duty of care for the children," Weglian said.

The children, ages 6 months to 7 years, died of smoke inhalation Oct. 24 after the fire started on a mattress in an upstairs bedroom. Investigators said a child playing with a candle, lighter or matches started the blaze. Six siblings and a cousin were killed.

Ragland could get two to 10 years in prison on each of seven counts of involuntary manslaughter if convicted. She was also charged with seven counts of child endangering, each offense punishable by one to five years behind bars.

Investigators determined that a smoke detector on the second floor was working but that an alarm on the first floor had been tampered with and did not work.

## Go, team fruit!

**WA** SEATTLE — Fans who live and breathe the rivalry between the Huskies and Cougars can now eat it up.

Yakima Valley farmer Randy Valicoff has ripened the likenesses of the teams' mascots into his apples and hopes to sell them in time for the annual football showdown between the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Branding fruit has been done before, but it's new to state football fans.

The third-generation farmer uses carefully applied logo stickers to block the sun's rays. As the apple matures, the logo appears where the sticker kept the skin from ripening.

The result: fruit bearing brilliant yellow Cougar and Husky logos.

## Restoring Poplar Forest

**VA** FOREST — The Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, which is restoring Poplar Forest, plans to buy 72 acres of land from Lynchburg's Industrial Development Authority for \$3 million to add to Thomas Jefferson's country retreat. Developers had wanted to build a shopping center on half the parcel. The 4,800-acre property left the Jefferson family's possession in the mid-1800s and was occupied as a private residence until restoration began in 1984.

## Deadly mistake

**NY** ROCHESTER — A man admitted to shooting another man to death in what police believe was a case of mistaken identity.

Michael Hernandez, 21, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 36-year-old Torrance Thompson.

Prosecutors said Hernandez was trying to break up a fight between his girlfriend and another woman on July 10, and fired his

32-caliber pistol in the air. At the same time, Hernandez was struck in the leg by a bullet.

Hernandez went home, returned a half-hour later with his cousin and approached a crowd that had gathered around the fight scene.

Hernandez singled out Thompson, hitting him in the face with his pistol and shooting him in the stomach, authorities said. Thompson did not take part in the earlier confrontation.

## Mercury spill shutdown

**KY** HODGENVILLE — A container of liquid mercury that officials believe was taken from a dentist office trash can caused schools to be shut down in Larue County. Officials say a high school student took the container to school and spilled mercury on the bus. More of it was spilled in Larue County High School.

Officials haven't decided if the student will be punished. An EPA team from Atlanta, in full protective gear, cleaned up the mercury.

## Holiday cheer will go on

**PA** NORTH CAMBRIA — Residents and local businesses in one Cambria County borough wouldn't let vandalizing Grinch steal the launch of their Christmas season.

Residents and local businesses pledged more than \$400 to replace the lights throughout Fridman park that were vandalized. The Northern Cambria Area Business Alliance chipped in another \$250. The borough council initially canceled the celebration, but it will now go on as scheduled the day after Thanksgiving.

## School lab vandalism

**IA** IOWA CITY — Vandals dumped chemicals, damaged computers and freed research animals at the University of Iowa, officials said.

The FBI was called in to investigate the vandalism discovered at Seashore Hall and Science Laboratories.

Seashore Hall houses the university's psychology, journalism and sociology departments.

The vandalism included laboratories where research animals were housed. An undetermined number of mice and rats were missing. More than 30 computers were damaged, university officials said.

Because of uncertainty about the extent of the damage, including the deliberate dumping of chemicals, university police evacuated the building and don't expect to reopen it until after the Thanksgiving holiday break.

## Nursing home ban

**RI** PROVIDENCE — The state Health Department tentatively lifted a ban on admissions to the Haven Health Center nursing home.

The center made significant progress in correcting problems with patient care that forced the sanction in September, the department said. Problems included unclean food and poor sanitation. Nursing homes statewide are under scrutiny since a Providence nursing home closed in June because of poor management.

Stories and photos from wire services

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# FACES

## Snoop goes deep on gridiron

Rap artist Snoop Dogg donned football gloves and a red University of Southern California sweat suit to run through drills with the top-ranked Trojans football team.

Snoop, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, had a 40-yard pass from quarterback Matt Leinart hit him in the hands Tuesday, but he couldn't hold the ball.

"Ain't nobody sticking me, that's why I dropped it," the rapper jokingly told players who teased him. Snoop also participated in a few football drills, knocking down dummies and running over obstacles.

The rap artist has coached his son's youth football team and is a former player himself.

He appeared at practice a day after a fight broke out near the stage of the Vibe Awards. Snoop and producer Quincy Jones were about to honor rapper Dr. Dre when a melee broke out and one person was stabbed.

## Stone to be honored in Stockholm

Oliver Stone will receive a lifetime achievement award at the Stockholm International Film Festival, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this week.

Starting Thursday, the festival will showcase 170 movies from more than 40 countries, most made by young independent filmmakers.

"We look for films that are innovative, that bring the cinematic medium forward somehow," festival director Gitt Scheinman said. "We look for young people, and we look for films that touch the audience."

Stone's new film, "Alexander," will have its European premiere at the festival. The story of Alexander the Great stars Colin Farrell as Alexander and Angelina Jolie as Alexander's mother, Olympias.

This year's candidates for the Bronze Horse, the festival's top award, include Zach Braff's "Garden State," Hong Kong filmmaker Yan Yan Mak's "Butterfly" and "Primer," a low-budget thriller by Shane Carruth, which won the grand jury prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

## Franklin plays presidential opening

Aretha Franklin sang with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, performing her hits, including "Respect" and "Chain of Fools," in advance of the opening of former President Clinton's library.

The full house that turned out at Robinson Auditorium applauded enthusiastically Tuesday night for Franklin, who told The Associated Press that she was fond of Clinton for his humanitarian work.

"It's my impression that he cares about people and he cares about all people," the singer said.

Clinton and other dignitaries will attend the Clinton Presidential Center dedication ceremony Thursday. The center opens to the public Friday.

Franklin also said she's thankful that Clinton gave her the National Medal of Arts while he was president.

"It's unquestionably one of the highest points of my career," she said. "And so I'm most thankful as an artist."

## Elway, Bon Jovi meet again

John Elway and Jon Bon Jovi are at it again.

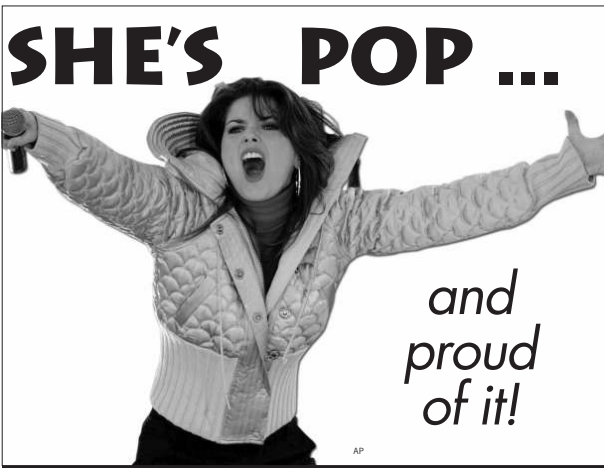
The Hall of Fame quarterback and the rocker, both owners of Arena Football League teams, have joined the cast of NBC's "Las Vegas" for a second AFL movie short, "Rumble in the Montecito."

The short, the second starring Elway and Bon Jovi, will be shown nationwide in 430 theaters next month.

Elway's Colorado Crush and Bon Jovi's Philadelphia Soul meet in a game on the set of Las Vegas' fictional Montecito Resort & Casino in a sequel to last year's "Rumble in the House."

"Las Vegas" actors Josh Duhamel, Nikki Cox and James Lesure are featured.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



## With release of her first greatest hits album, Shania Twain reflects on her career, critics

BY JOHN GEROME

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A car full of dudes. Radio blaring. Annoying guy in the back singing off-key to Shania Twain's "Man, I Feel Like a Woman" while his buddies look seriously uncomfortable.

Twain, who recently co-hosted Country Music Association awards with Brooks & Dunn, hasn't seen the Chevy commercial, but she's heard about it — and laughs at the thought.

She's the first to admit her songs have a strong female perspective. But it's far more than women who are buying her records by the millions and filling arenas for her concerts.

"It's girls, boys, men, women, grandparents, everybody," Twain says. "I don't know why that is. They all relate to it somehow. I think they relate to the sense of humor of it. It's not straight-ahead female empowerment. Men relate to it because it's got a sense of humor."

Twain's new album, a greatest hits package, came out Nov. 9, the same day as her CMA appearance. If it follows course, it will be a huge success. Her last three albums have topped the 10 million mark, with 1999's "Come On Over" reaching 20 million and placing her among music's elite.

Only a handful of acts — none of them country, not even Garth Brooks — have had bigger-selling albums.

"As a country artist, she is in a bit of a category by herself," said Wade Jessen, a chart director for Billboard magazine. "In terms of radio and video exposure, Shania is a bona fide signed, sealed and delivered crossover artist."

Dressed casually in a blue, green and white striped sweater with black pants and boots, Twain, 39, slips hot tea during an interview.

She's polite, offering refreshments to a guest, and candid, answering pointed questions without flinching.

She's unabashed in her pursuit of commercial success. She and her husband, producer extraordinaire Robert John "Mutt" Lange, approach each song as a potential radio hit. Artistic expression is fine and good, but only if it's commercially viable.

"We only write songs that we think are worthy of being hits, of writing on the radio," Twain says. "We work very hard to make every song like that."

To reach every demographic, they often record two versions of the same song, one country-flavored, maybe with fiddles or steel guitars, and the other pop-oriented.

Her music has become a staple on country, pop and adult contemporary stations. Her latest single, "Party for Two," one of three new songs on the greatest hits album, went to country radio as a duet with country newcomer Billy Currington and to pop radio as a duet with Sugar Ray frontman Mark McGrath.

"It just keeps us in the pattern of my career so far, going all the way back to 'That Don't Impress Me Much' and 'Man, I Feel Like a Woman,'" she said. "If you've got that kind of versatility, why not have fun with it? We have that diverse fan base, and it's great to be able to explore that."

Twain, who grew up poor in Ontario, Canada, almost always speaks in the plural when discussing her career, a nod to Lange's involvement.

A South Africa native, Lange had produced top-selling albums by Def Leppard, AC/DC, Foreigner, the Cars and Bryan Adams before he and Twain crossed paths.

After seeing a video she made for her self-titled debut album (the lowest seller of her career by far) he traveled to Nashville to meet her. They married in 1993, and she has been her collaborator and partner ever since. Together, they co-write all of her songs.

Early on, the relationship raised questions about her talent, fueled in part by her decision not to tour in support of her second album, "The Woman in Me" (she now says that she didn't have enough hits at that point to do a full show).

While Twain credits their relationship with helping her career, she dismisses suggestions that he is a puppeteer behind her success.

She says she comes up with most of the song ideas and many of the lyrics and melodies, while he takes lead on arrangements and production.

"He on his own has never had this kind of success. And me on my own, I doubt very much I would have had this kind of success. First of all, would I even have found anyone who had so much faith in me? Part of why I think I flourished is because he believed so much in me. He loved my voice; he loved my songwriting. He was my biggest fan."

As for the critics, she says she was ready for them. She had been writing songs and performing since she was a child and was confident in her abilities.

And today, she says, most of the doubters have gone away.

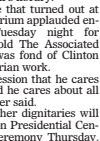
"There's so much consistency in the music, so much consistency in everything," she says. "You can't really duplicate that if it's not really you."



Franklin

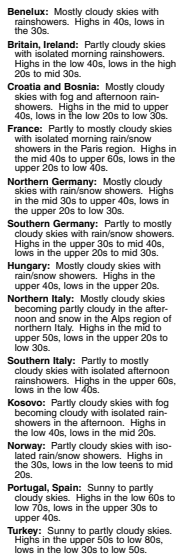


Stone



Bon Jovi





New moon      First qtr.      Full moon      Last qtr.

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Legend:

- High
- Low
- Showers
- Rain
- Partly Cloudy
- Cloudy
- Snow
- Ice
- Sunny
- PC, Cloudy
- Cloudy

Fronts:

- Cold
- Warm
- Stationary

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# Horoscope

The water-sign influences win with a majority count: The sun, the moon, Mars, Saturn and Uranus are all as liquid as can be. Even full-grown men may laugh and cry like pregnant women—and without a hint of embarrassment! Maybe all this tension letting off will allow us to be more compassionate and forgiving with ourselves and others.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(November 19).** This year, you believe you can have more from life, and you give more, too. Your faith is what brings an opportunity for more love in the next seven weeks. Share wisdom by teaching or being taught in July. You'll have to move quickly to take advantage of financial opportunities in March; the rewards are big. You are compatible with Libra and Pisces.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You like the smart kid in the class with your hand in the air the whole time. Why won't the teacher call on you? See what happens if you pull back. Let your quiet confidence show that you know all the answers.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

If patience could be bottled, you'd have enough in storage to last you through the winter. But, alas, you can't even lend your extra supply to those who really need it. Your zen state is mighty attractive, though, especially to Aries.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You sprinkle generosity on everyone you encounter! As long as you're the self-appointed fairy godmother/godfather, you may as well give to people who actually deserve it, too. Take note of the real gems around you.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Aimless and systematic thoughts can be the most wonderful kind! By being less structured, you allow little tidbits from the collective unconscious to drop into your mind, and this is where the big ideas get their start.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Very pretty deep, you know. You'll meet a real character—someone who can enrich you with eclectic scholarship.

Pay attention, though it's hard to follow this person's whimsical line of thought.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

The financial picture improves when you see yourself as a salesperson—view everyone you meet as a potential convert. Whether selling an idea or a product, or simply winning people over to your team, you're successful.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Some of your self-care practices have slipped by the wayside. Compensate for your recent neglect. Be willing to pay more to get the style, service and choice you prefer. Everyone benefits when you're well tended.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're at the epicenter of your activities. Dare to shut off the phone for an hour so you can concentrate on finishing the most important task. In love, because you're serious about a relationship, it moves forward.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

24). Whether it's a friendship, love or work, privately resolve to be in the relationship for the long term. This actually takes the pressure off, since now you've got the luxury of time to iron out your differences.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You've got a better hold of your assets now, both material and intellectual. Since you're confident about what you can offer, you do so readily and without prompting. You're an asset to your community.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You've got many messages to convey. If done eloquently, you raise your status in the eyes of a VIP. Upgrade your communication by learning a new word, preferably one you can substitute for the overused "awesome."

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're a bit detached, but it's not a bad thing. It's like you're moving through the traffic of life in the top floor of a double-decker sightseeing bus. Sometimes, an overview is exactly what's needed to make smart decisions.

Creators Syndicate

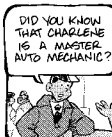
## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



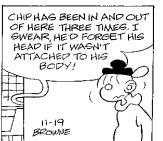
## Zits



## Cathy



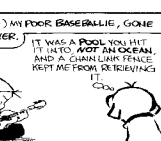
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover



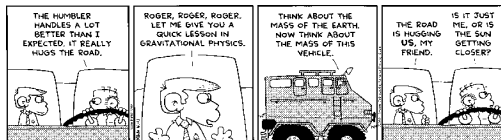
## Better or Worse



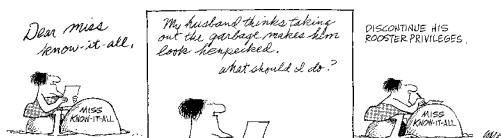
## Peanuts



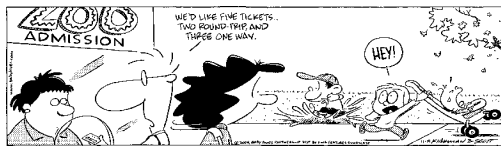
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



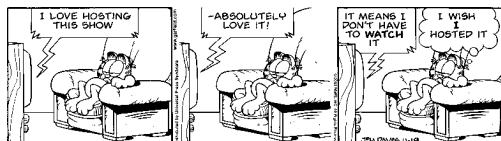
Dilbert



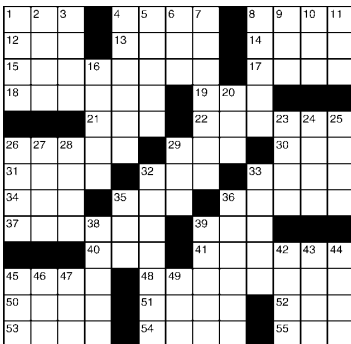
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



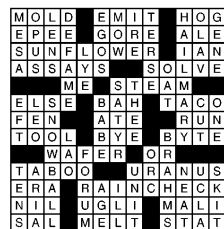
## Across

- 1 Billboards
- 4 Hasn't settled yet
- 8 Teensy bit, to a chef
- 13 Shuffleboard stick
- 14 Grats
- 14 Neighborhood
- 15 Remain unresolved
- 17 Vegan's no-no
- 18 Firstborn
- 19 Snake eyes
- 21 Witness
- 22 Problem
- 26 Footballer Favre
- 29 "The Amazing Race" episode
- 30 Gorilla
- 31 Cleanse
- 32 Launch site
- 33 Like a snail
- 34 Improve, to a virtiner
- 35 Chatter away
- 36 Brick-makers' needs
- 37 Persist
- 39 Cambridge sch.
- 40 Mel of Cooperstown
- 41 Parka
- 45 Soared
- 48 Cuticle woe
- 50 "Hee Haw"-like humor
- 51 Differently
- 52 Indignation
- 53 Gear features

## Down

- 1 Rue the run
- 2 Two-way
- 3 Transmit
- 4 Displaced
- 5 Emulate
- 6 Shakespeare
- 6 Always
- 7 Boiled
- 8 Pythias' pal
- 9 "You — There"
- 10 With expanse
- 11 Bella Abzug trademark
- 16 "Beau —"
- 20 Punster
- 23 Impudence
- 24 Immediately after
- 25 Church array
- 26 Uninteresting
- 27 Indian style of music
- 28 Fair and balanced
- 29 Matlock's field
- 32 Cougar's kin
- 33 Squelch
- 35 Make marginalia
- 36 Promoted a checker
- 38 Prom purchases
- 39 Imposing home
- 42 Incursion
- 43 Ethereal
- 44 "Fish Magic" painter
- 45 TV watchdog org.
- 46 Privy
- 47 Work unit
- 49 Milwaukee product

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 11-19

## CRYPTOQUIP

VC AUCQ ZB WTBQAO C  
ZBBZXWSU ZC OBRZSNRCTU.  
DAZ BAT DAUNRCUU VCRZ

QBV R ZXC ZADCU.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STUCK AMONGST A SUFFOCATING MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE, THE SKETCH ARTIST DREW A CROWD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals O







# Report: Spurrier bound for South Carolina

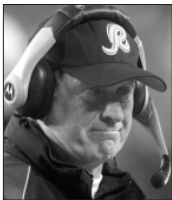
## Newspaper says ex-Florida coach will step in if Holtz retires after season

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Steve Spurrier has agreed to take over as football coach at South Carolina if Lou Holtz retires at the end of the season. The Tennessee of Nashville reported in Thursday's editions.

An announcement regarding Spurrier, who won a national championship at Florida, is expected next week, the newspaper said, citing an anonymous source close to the situation.

South Carolina spokesman Kerry Tharp denied the report. He said the 67-year-old Holtz still needs to decide whether to return for a seventh season with the Gamecocks.



Steve Spurrier

"Let's let him make that assessment," Tharp told The Associated Press. "I can't comment on what

people are speculating. I'd just as soon leave it at that."

Several times this season Holtz has said he felt tired and worn out. He's also mentioned that Spurrier would be a good choice to succeed him.

This week, as the Gamecocks (6-4, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) prepared for Saturday's game with Clemson, Holtz addressed reports that South Carolina contacted Spurrier.

"I've talked to Steve," Holtz said. "I don't want to go in that direction, but I have talked to him. We talked about how you cure a slice, his son, etc. Steve's a good friend of mine, as I said. All I want to talk about is Clemson, Clemson, Clemson. That's all

That's the only thing on my mind."

There was much speculation that Spurrier would return to Florida next season, following the recent firing of Ron Zook. But Spurrier pulled his name out of the running, saying coaching 12 years at one school was probably enough.

Spurrier and Holtz are friends. Spurrier helped Holtz's wife, Beth, obtain an appointment with Florida's NCAA faculty advisor Dr. Nicholas Cassisi for treatment for her throat cancer. When Beth Holtz was in the university's surgical center for several weeks, Spurrier's wife, Jerri, checked on her several times to see what she needed.

"He didn't have to do any of that," Holtz said in 1999. "He's got a million other things on his mind. I was out of coaching."

Spurrier, 59, went 20-13-1 in three seasons at Duke before taking over at Florida, his alma mater, in 1990. The Gators won six Southeastern Conference championships and the 1996 national title under Spurrier. He posted 122 victories over 12 seasons, tormented opponents with his offensive flair and witty one-liners, and left town with the best winning percentage in league history.

Spurrier abruptly left after the 2001 season, taking over for Washington Redskins. Spurrier resigned after two seasons with a 12-20 record.

# Auburn, Alabama bring steel-trap defenses to Iron Bowl

By JOHN ZENOR

The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama has the nation's top pass defense and ranks second overall. No team in major college football allows fewer points than No. 2 Auburn.

Welcome to this year's edition of the Iron Bowl — sure to be a defensive struggle.

Saturday's game at Bryant-Denny Stadium will feature two of the best defenses around — units built on speed, sound fundamentals and simply making more big plays than they allow.

"This will probably be one of the best defenses, if not the best, defense we'll see, no matter how many games we have left or who we play," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said.

"I think it's the fastest defense we've seen year after year," Alabama offensive coordinator Dave Rader said of the Tigers.

Alabama (6-4, 3-4 Southeastern Conference) is allowing just 230 total yards per game and has given up just eight passing touchdowns.

Clearly, Alabama defensive coordinator Joe Kines knew what he was doing despite criticism for an inconsistent guard last season. "Joe Kines took a lot of ridicule last year and obviously has made



9:30 p.m. Saturday  
AFN-Pacific

Game time is Central European.

a lot of people look silly," said Tuberville, a longtime friend of Kines.

The Tigers (10-0, 7-0) are allowing just 9.3 points per game, fewest in the nation, and rank fifth in total defense, eighth against the pass and 12th against the run. Plus, they've allowed a single touchdown on the ground leading into a matchup against the league's top rushing offense.

"They run to the football and tackle," Rader said. "They play well and if somebody makes a mistake, they make up for them and somebody's there to make the tackle. They swarm to the football very well. It's quite impressive."

The Tigers are led by the league's top pass rush, an undersized but quick and athletic line-backing corps and a secondary directed by safety Junior Rosegreen and cornerback Carlos Rogers.

ers, one of five finalists for the award given to the nation's top defensive player.

"They play lights-out football," Alabama offensive tackle Wesley Britt said. "They run around and they hustle and they never quit."

Alabama's defense is led by a deep group of linebackers that Auburn offensive coordinator Al Borges said is "as good as any we've seen."

Tide safety Charlie Peprah said the biggest difference from last year's group is "the attitude of the guys." He said watching film from last year's Iron Bowl showed a tendency to have one or two players out of position, leading to big plays by the offense.

"We're just running the stuff better and we're practicing to get better, not just to get through it and go home," Peprah said.

"We take the initiative ourselves to try to be perfect. That's a big difference."

The defenses will face vastly different challenges Saturday.

Auburn boasts the league's top rushing offense, a diverse attack built around tailbacks Ronnie Brown and Carnell Williams and quarterback Jason Campbell.

"It may be the best offense I've seen on tape in the last 15 years," Kines said. "If you sat down and you wrote a list of things you'd



Cornerback Carlos Rogers, left, part of Auburn's fifth-ranked defense, defends against Georgia's Reggie Brown (1) during the Tigers' 24-6 victory last weekend in Auburn, Ala.

like to have offensively to be successful, they've pretty much got the whole list covered."

The Tide mostly rides the relentless running of Kenneth Darby, the league's No. 2 rusher. Auburn defensive coordinator Gene Chizik said Alabama is "definitely the best rushing team" the

Tigers have faced this year. "Darby is a super football player," said Chizik, whose defense hasn't allowed a team to reach 150 yards rushing this season.

"The offensive line is big and physical and they're running on everybody," he said. "They run the ball well for a reason."

# Black Knights face long odds against Blazers in final home game

By MARK JOHNSON

The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army coach Bobby Ross concedes that on paper his team doesn't match up well with UAB.

But if the Black Knights (2-7, 2-5 Conference USA) play "error free" football, Ross said he thinks they can upend the Blazers on the way to Army's final home game of the season.

UAB is "bigger than most NFL teams," Ross said. "They've got us by size and they've got us by speed. They're a better football team than we are, but that doesn't mean we can't win ... I still feel we have a good chance."

The Blazers (6-3, 4-2) are coming off a 20-7 victory over Houston. Coach Watson Brown shuffled his staff going into that game, moving assistants Rick Christophel and Woodrow Lowe to work with the defensive line after his team gave up 104 points in two straight losses.

The move paid off as the Blazers became bowl-eligible and appeared to regain some of their early season momentum.

UAB is seeking its first bowl game since moving to Division I-A in 1996. The Blazers have won at least six games twice since 2000 but have never made the postseason.

"Getting bowl eligible and getting taken

are two different things," Brown said. "These kids deserve the opportunity. At least we've gotten that piece taken care of, but there's still a lot of football left to play."

UAB's attack is led by Roddy White, the leading receiver in Division I. He is averaging 127 yards a game and 20 yards per catch and has scored 11 touchdowns this year.

"He will draw a lot of attention because when you see him out there a red flag goes up," said Ross, who was critical of his team's defense in its 45-31 loss to Tulane last week.

Quarterback Darrell Hackney has been

another impressive performer for UAB, throwing for 2,248 yards and 20 TDs with just six interceptions this season. Under him, UAB is averaging slightly more than 32 points a game to rank 21st nationally.

He'll be facing a defense that ranks last among 117 Division I schools in allowing opponents 514 yards of offense a game. The Black Knights are good at 36 points a game.

The Blazers, ranked 92nd in total defense, will have to contend with Army running back Carlton Jones, ranked as the country's 10th leading rusher. Jones, averaging 126 yards rushing a game, has 16 TDs on the season and has given the Black Knights a much-needed spark this year.

# RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS



AP PHOTOS; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLY/Stars and Stripes

The five drivers in contention for the Nextel Cup entering Sunday's season finale in Homestead, Fla.: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson, Kurt Busch, Mark Martin and Jeff Gordon.

## Season's last race will determine NASCAR's next champion

BY JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Forget the math or the infinite number of potential scenarios to determine who will win NASCAR's Nextel Cup title.

There should be only one strategy for the five drivers still eligible to win the title Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway: win the race and don't worry about what the other competitors are doing.

With five racers separated by 82 points headed into the final event of NASCAR's 10-race Chase for the Nextel Cup Championship, a crew chief could go mad trying to crunch the numbers to figure out what his driver has to do to win.

So why even bother? "We'll have a 'Go for broke' attitude," said four-time series champion Jeff Gordon. "We have nothing

to lose, we'll give it everything we've got, and hope to come out on top."

"We have to win."

Kurt Busch heads into the finale with an 18-point lead over Jimmie Johnson. Gordon trails Busch by 21 points, Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 72 out and Mark Martin is 82 points behind.

The race is so tight that even if Gordon wins and leads the most laps, he can still lose the title if Busch simply finishes second.

The only sure bet is Busch. If he wins the race, he wins his first series title no matter what the others do.

Under the current scoring system, a win earns 180 points, a last-place finish gets 34 points and all the positions in between are staggered. Five-point bonuses are given to any driver who leads a lap, and an additional five-point bonus is awarded for leading the most laps in a race.

So if Busch wins the race, he is guaranteed 185 points. Even if Johnson, or Gordon, or anyone else finishes second and earned two bonuses — five points for leading one lap, and five more for leading the most laps — it would still only equal 180 points, not enough to overcome the lead Busch already has.

"I think if I'm Kurt, I would be really nervous," said Earnhardt. "He's in the situation where, you know, it's really basically up to him and his team to win or lose it."

Earnhardt and Martin have a much tougher battle ahead because, for all practical purposes, it's a three-man chase. Both of them can only hope to play the spoiler.

At 72 points back, Earnhardt needs a terrific finish and hope the three drivers ahead of him all have horrible finishes.

If Junior won the race and led

the most laps, Busch would have to finish 29th or worse and not lead a lap for Earnhardt to win the title. But Earnhardt would still have to contend with Gordon and Johnson and hope both of them also finished well behind him.

"We dug ourselves a pretty big hole, and it will be difficult to climb out and still win this championship," Earnhardt said.

"We're going to have to be the best team at Homestead as well as the luckiest."

"I think the Boston Red Sox kind of showed everybody this

year what a team can achieve by not giving up, so we'll go into Homestead as a team still with a chance to win the championship."

Martin is in the same situation. Still searching for his first series

title, he's stopped thinking about how to win it and focused instead on the only thing he can control.

"We are 82 out, but we still have a shot, but it really doesn't matter because we are going there to try and win the [race] and that's really all we can do," Martin said.

The points scenario is similar to the 1992 race, when four drivers battled for that title.

In the season-ending event at Atlanta Motor Speedway, the late Davey Allison started with a 30-point lead over the late Alan Kulwicki. Allison was 40 points up on Bill Elliott.

Allison needed to finish sixth or better to clinch the title, but after running sixth for much of the race, he crashed with Ernie Irvan. Kulwicki and Elliott were left to decide the title, and because Kulwicki led the most laps in the race, he clinched the 10-point bonus.

Elliott won the race, Kulwicki finished second and won the title because he led a single lap more than Elliott.

It could get just as wild at Homestead.

### NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

#### Race 36: Ford 400, 6 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

**Last race:** Jimmie Johnson fought for the fourth time in five races and moved within 18 points of standings leader Kurt Busch by taking the Mountain Dew Southern 500 in Darlington, S.C. Five drivers head into this weekend's finale separated by just 82 points.

**Last year:** Bobby Labonte won the Ford 400 after Bill Elliott's rear tire exploded on the last lap.

#### DRIVERS TO WATCH



Kurt Busch will win the championship if he wins the Ford 400. He can also win the championship by finishing in the top 10 of the race and leading at least one lap.



Jimmie Johnson has four victories and five top-10 finishes in the last five races. He is the only driver in the top 10 of the race who has not won a race since he last won a race.



Jeff Gordon still very much in the title hunt, has scored four top-10 finishes in the last five races. He is the only driver in the top 10 of the race who has not won a race since he last won a race.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 72 points out of the lead. He is the only driver in the top 10 of the race who has not won a race since he last won a race.



Mark Martin is 82 points out of the lead. He is the only driver in the top 10 of the race who has not won a race since he last won a race.

**Nextel Cup qualifying record**  
Jimmie Johnson, 181.111 mph, 2003  
**Nextel Cup race record**  
Bobby Labonte, 116.868 mph, Nov. 15, 2003

#### FAST FACTS

The last time a points race was won by a driver who finished in the final event was 1992, when six drivers were separated by 113 points. Alan Kulwicki won the race. The polester has won this race two of the last three years. — NASCAR chairman Brian France announced Monday that the new points system will be retained next year.

### BUSCH SERIES

**This week:** Ford 300 at Homestead, Fla. (tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Sports).

**Last race:** Martin Truex Jr. clinched the series championship with his fourth-place finish in the 80-lap 200 in Darlington, S.C. Truex entered the race with a 160-point lead over Kyle Busch, but he was involved in a collision early before getting into another accident on the last lap.

Busch's 2003 season was the best of his career. He won the series championship, claiming the 500th title with an 11th-place finish behind first-time winner Casey Kahne. David Green finished third and won four of the last five races.

**Fast facts:** This is the final race of the season. Truex is the first driver to win a Busch championship in his first full season on the circuit since Dale Earnhardt Jr. took the first of his two consecutive titles in 1998.

**CRAFTSMAN TRUCK**  
**This week:** Ford 200 at Homestead, Fla. (tape-delayed, 2 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Sports).

**Last race:** Kasey Kahne, a Nextel Cup rookie, won the Darlington 200 in his first full season. Dodge claimed the top five places and the manufacturer's title.

**Last year:** Controversy clouded the finish of the closest championship in the history of the series, with Travis Kvieci winning the title and Todd Martin winning by a narrow margin. Kvieci was penalized for exceeding the 15-minute time limit during out of line during a caution and pulling to the left alongside Dennis Setzer before they reached the starting line. Bobby Hamilton won the race.

**INDY RACING**  
**Last race:** Helio Castroneves picked up his first win in 39 races by taking the season-ending Chevy 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. Series champion Tony Stewart finished second. Castroneves became the first driver in any major series to complete a season.

**CHAMP CARS**  
**Last race:** Sebastian Bourdais overcame a spin and a sticky gearbox to win his first Champ Car title, beating team-mate Bruno Junqueira. He also won a flag-to-flag victory in the Mexican Grand Prix.

**FORMULA ONE**  
**Last race:** Juan Pablo Montoya won in his final race for Williams-GMW, beating Michael Schumacher. Kimi Raikkonen in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Oct. 24.

# McNair practices but status unclear

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair practices with the first team Wednesday, but coach Jeff Fisher said whether the co-MVP of 2003 plays Sunday against Jacksonville remains a game-time decision.

McNair has not played since bruising his chest for the second time in the second quarter of a 20-3 loss at Minnesota on Oct. 24. He went straight from practice Wednesday to the training room for treatment.

## NFL briefs

After a meeting and did not speak to reporters. But Fisher said practicing is not the issue with McNair.

"Throwing, running around is not the issue, but he appears to be better at this point. We will see how he moves around. We believe he is improving and we are encouraged at where he is right now, but we still have to wait, probably in all likelihood until game time," Fisher said.

The Titans (3-6) worry that another hit to the chest could knock out McNair for another two to three weeks, and there's a chance neither starting offensive tackle will play.

Pro Bowl left tackle Brad Hopkins had surgery to repair broken bones in his right hand Wednesday and will be replaced by Jason Matthews, an 11-year veteran. Matthews also has started at right guard and tight end this season for the banged-up Titans.

They also might be without veteran right tackle Fred Miller who has struggled with a sore right ankle the past couple weeks. Miller would have left last week's 19-7 overtime loss to Chicago if Hopkins had not broken his hand.

"I don't want to go out there and hurt the team. But with us being so thin, I definitely need to give it a shot and go out there and try to play. We'll see what happens later on in the week," Miller said.

If Miller can't play, he likely would be replaced by second-year lineman Todd Watkins, who appeared in a game last season and has played in only one game this year.

## No fine for alleged spitting

ASHBURN, Va. — The NFL will not fine Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor after losing control in a game last week when Cincinnati player was spit on during Sunday's game.

Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said one of his players was spit on during Cincinnati's victory. Lewis did not name either player involved, although comments from receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh implied the culprit was Taylor.

The league, as it does every week, carefully examined every play from the game and found insufficient evidence for action.

"Sean Taylor will not be fined," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said Thursday. "There was no video evidence to support a fine." Taylor has not commented on the matter. The No. 5 overall draft pick from Miami hasn't spoken to the media since he was arrested and charged with drunken driving on Oct. 28.

Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said Wednesday he had not discussed the incident with Taylor. "It really hasn't been a big deal to me," said Gibbs, who added: "I don't have a clue what's happened here."

## Terrell downplays citations

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago Bears wide receiver David Terrell said Wednesday his arrest on multiple traffic violations was not a major issue, just a ticket.

But once again the team had to explain the actions of its 2001 first-round draft pick, whose antics have often overshadowed his performance since he joined the team.

Chicago police spokeswoman Patricia Harper said officers spotted Terrell driving his SUV erratically as he tried to pass another car on a city street Wednesday night. He was cited for reckless driving, failure to yield and failure to stay in his lane. He also

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's progress. (See Scoreboard on page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league.)  
**Panthers** QB Jake Delhomme (thumb) has practice on Wednesday and is questionable for Sunday's game.  
**Vikings** WR Randy McMillan (wrist) is listed as doubtful, but the team has said he will not play this week.  
**Jaguars** QB Byron Leftwich (knee) has doubtful. David Garrard will start in his place.

was cited for driving on a suspended license and driving without insurance, Harper said.

Police spokesman Paul Hammond said there were no problems when Terrell was stopped.

Terrell has met with coach Lovie Smith to explain the situation.

"I'm disappointed in what happened, you're talking about the traffic ticket, correct?" Smith said.

Smith said the team would deal with the situation.

## Panthers' Davis has surgery

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina running back Stephen Davis had microfracture surgery on his right knee, and the surgery is potentially career threatening.

But the Panthers downplayed the severity of it Wednesday. Backup running back DeShaun Foster had the same procedure in 2002 and didn't miss a beat, but wide receiver Patrick Jeffers had it and never played again.

"I think everybody is different," Panthers General Manager Marty Hurney said. "Stephen is competitive and has drive and determination. It was just done and it will be a process that takes several months. We'll take it as it goes."

Davis played in only two games this season before having arthroscopic surgery Sept. 17 to clean out torn cartilage in his knee. He played in one game after the procedure, but every time he tried to practice, his knee would hurt.

Carolina put him on injured reserve last week, and he had the procedure Tuesday that requires doctors to drill holes into the kneecap.

## Cowboys RB Jones practices

IRVING, Texas — Julius Jones practiced for the first time in almost two months Wednesday but isn't expected to play this week for the Dallas Cowboys.

The rookie running back has been out since he broke his left shoulder in his NFL debut, the Cowboys' 19-12 win over Cleveland on Sept. 19.

"We realized that we're going to run the ball six, seven times in a row and you just run it," Faneua said. "Just pounding it and driving it and hurting, we feed off that."

Jeff Hartung, a nine-year veteran at center and the team's most experienced lineman, agrees it would be difficult for any line to be playing much better.

Offensive line coach Russ Allen might not agree after all, he played in one of the best-known lines ever for the Super Bowl champion Redskins. But he appreciates what he's seeing, even if it has been for only about a half-season.

# Parcells: It's not time for Henson

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells is tired of the question because the answer hasn't changed. He's still not ready for rookie Drew Henson to play quarterback in Dallas.

Despite the souring season, with the Cowboys (3-6) losing five of their last six games, Parcells strongly reiterated Wednesday that the wait will continue for the team's quarterback of the future.

"I tried to explain it about 50 different ways," Parcells said.

"It's not being stubborn," he said. "It's a well thought out, analytical, reasonable approach and I have given a lot more thought to it than any single person."

Henson has been the backup quarterback the past three games, but his only action has been as a holder on kicks. Even though the Cowboys' last three losses were by more than 20 points each, he didn't get a single snap at quarterback in any of those games.

The New York Giants, who have one more win than Dallas, replaced Curt Warner with rookie Eli Manning this week. Pittsburgh has won all seven games since rookie Ben Roethlisberger became the starter, and Craig Kenzel is 3-0 with Chicago.

Still, Parcells hasn't been swayed by Henson.

"It's not that I wouldn't like to find out about the player. I want to do that," he said. "But right now, I don't think it's the time. So that's it. It's going to stay that way for a while."

Parcells said it would take about two hours to explain everything that goes into his thought process about Henson. Without elaborating, Parcells said he didn't want to put the young quar-

terback in the wrong situation at the wrong time.

Henson's last QB snap in a meaningful game was for Michigan in the 2001 Citrus Bowl. He then played three seasons in professional baseball before joining the Cowboys.

Part of Parcells' reluctance to change quarterbacks has been the wrong message it could send that the focus was switching to the future and away from this season.

"We are trying to win here. We are not running a tryout camp," Parcells said. "It's as simple as that. The other player gives us a better chance to win the game. That is what I am trying to do."

Vinny Testaverde has 2,305 yards passing and is on pace to be the first Cowboys quarterback with more than 4,000 yards. Only Don Meredith has thrown for more than a first nine games of a season (2,369 yards in 1965).

Testaverde, who reunited with Parcells last summer and turned 41 Saturday, isn't bothered by the talk about Henson.

"I'm experienced enough to realize how the process works, how most people view things and see things," said Testaverde, who is in his 18th NFL season. "But it doesn't stop me from trying to come out and compete and win a game."

While with the New York Jets, Testaverde was replaced by Chad Pennington. He knows Henson is next in line in Dallas.

"I know that the process will take place... whether it's this week, next week or a month from now, a year from now," Testaverde said. "Whatever it is, it will happen. That's not my decision. It's one man's decision. He's going to make the call."

And Parcells isn't saying when that might happen.

# Line: Sticking to the run gave OL confidence

LINE, FROM BACK PAGE

The results are obvious. The line was so dominating during a 27-3 victory over the Eagles on Nov. 7 that television repeatedly showed replays displaying holes big enough for a bus to drive through — or for the BS, Jerome Bettis, to run through.

"We realized that we're going to run the ball six, seven times in a row and you just run it," Faneua said. "Just pounding it and driving it and hurting, we feed off that."

Jeff Hartung, a nine-year veteran at center and the team's most experienced lineman, agrees it would be difficult for any line to be playing much better.

Offensive line coach Russ Allen might not agree after all, he played in one of the best-known lines ever for the Super Bowl champion Redskins. But he appreciates what he's seeing, even if it has been for only about a half-season.

"Now, can we do it consistently?" he said. "That's the toughest thing."

Allen doesn't see any let-down coming.

"What's crazy about this year is, after practice, a lot of us know the things we need to work on and we'll just work on it ourselves," he said. "We take pride in what we're doing."

The Steelers are proving an offensive line need not be studded with expensive high draft picks to be successful. While Faneua and Smith are big-money players, Vincent was an undrafted rookie free agent in 2001 and Ross didn't play a game in 1999 or 2000 after the Cowboys let him go following a brief trial in 1998.

"The fall of the offense last year fell on our shoulders," Faneua said. "So we take it a little respect for ourselves knowing that us playing well is helping out the offense this year."

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Car Care King Reams

# Dungy: Monday Night Football introduction racially offensive

Reaction to segment featuring Eagles WR Owens, actress Sheridan ranges from anger to amusement

The Associated Press

If ABC hoped to generate a little bit more buzz for "Monday Night Football" and "Desperate Housewives," its steamy intro to the Dallas-Philadelphia game sure did the trick.

Two days after the network aired the segment featuring Eagles star receiver Terrell Owens and actress Nicolette Sheridan, coaches and players were still talking about it.

Reaction ranged from amusement to anger. Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy found it racially offensive.

"To me that's the first thing I thought of as an African-American," Dungy said Wednesday.

"I think it's stereotypical in looking at the players, and on the heels of the Kobe Bryant incident I think it's very insensitive. I don't think that they would have had Bill Parcells or Andy Reid or one of the owners involved in that," he added, a reference to the coaches in the game.

ABC's intro showed Sheridan wearing only a towel and provocatively asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms. Owens is black and Sheridan is white.

"If that's what we have to do to get ratings, I'd rather not get them," Dungy said. "I realize that ratings pays us in this league, but if that's what we have to do, I'm willing to take a pay cut."

Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb wasn't quite as vocal, saying he didn't find the segment offensive and believed people were overreacting.

"Some people do different things," McNabb said. "Not saying that my wife would love to do that, but it's just something that was done, and you move on."



Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy, above, found the intro to "Monday Night Football," promoting ABC's show "Desperate Housewives" and depicting white actress Nicolette Sheridan trying to seduce Eagles WR Terrell Owens, who is black, racially offensive.

Michael Powell, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, had a different view, questioning ABC's depiction of interracial sex in airing the scene.

"I wonder if Walt Disney would be proud," he said. ABC is owned by The Walt Disney Co. The FCC will review complaints and decide whether or not to open an investigation that could result in a fine against the network.

The segment drew complaints from viewers and the NFL. ABC Sports apologized for using the introduction to promote its show, "Desperate Housewives."

Dungy's comment, however, was the first that mentioned race. He also said the segment played off stereotypes of athletes.

"That athletes are sexual predators and that that stuff is more important than what's going on on the field. That a guy was more concerned with that than the game, that's a terrible message to send," Dungy said. "I'm particularly sensitive to that. It could have been any player and I would have been outraged, but being an African-American, it particularly hurt me."

A decade ago Dungy was outspoken about the lack of black coaches in the NFL. There are currently five, including Dungy and Lovie Smith, whose Bears will face Dungy's Colts on Sunday.

"I thought it was in bad taste also," Smith said. "You could say that it was pretty close to pornographic, so any time that happens on prime time, something is wrong."

But Smith didn't find it racially offensive. "I really can't go that far," he said. "I saw a naked lady with an athlete, period. Black, white, that doesn't really matter an awful lot to me."

Dungy said ABC had asked the Colts, who played on Monday night last week, "to do some things I thought would make our players look a little bit silly (although) nothing like that."

"We kind of declined," he said. Some players were also shocked.

"My mouth dropped when I saw that," said Washington tight end Mike Sellers, who was watching the game with his wife. "I said, 'Did they actually plan this on TV?'"

But at least one of his teammates wasn't bothered. "I thought it was kind of cool, myself," linebacker Marcus Washington said. "I enjoyed the skit."



Terrell Owens

tion, not because of simulated nudity. "Anything I get involved with, I'm obviously a target," he said. "It happened."

When asked if he was shocked the story was making the front page of newspapers around the country, Owens quipped, "I always make the front page."



Denver Nuggets forwards Kenyon Martin, left, and Carmelo Anthony celebrate after Martin's basket helped seal the Nuggets' 112-106 victory over the Toronto Raptors in Denver on Wednesday.

## Relieved Anthony steps up his game

Hours after marijuana charge is dropped, Nugget scores 30 in victory over Raptors

BY JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony's smile is back, and so is his game.

Hours after prosecutors dropped a drug charge against the Nuggets' star forward to give him Denver hold off the Toronto Raptors 112-106 Wednesday night. Kenyon Martin added 24 points and 16 rebounds to give the Nuggets the 1-2 combination they had been hoping for.

Anthony was charged with drug possession on Oct. 15 after he was caught with marijuana in his backpack. A friend came forward and said the drugs were his, but the negative attention clearly affected "Melo" early in the season.

Not anymore. After shooting 27 percent the first four games, Anthony has made 36 of 76 shots the past four, scoring at least 30 points twice.

More importantly, he has been more aggressive and the smile that characterized his stellar rookie season has returned.

"A little bit early in the season I was thinking about it, worrying about what they were going to do, but now I try to put basketball in the middle and work everything else around it," Anthony said.

He learned before the game that prosecutors had dismissed the charges and the good news seemed to give him a lift.

He was aggressive early — just as he had been in his previous three games — driving hard to the basket for layups and fouls. Anthony had 18 points by halftime and added eight in the third quarter to help the Nuggets rally from a poor second quarter.

Denver also had a key block in the closing minutes and made all 16 of his free throws, including two with 5.6 seconds left in seal Denver's second victory in three games since a 1-4 start. "Carmelo is active and not set-

ting for jump shots," Nuggets coach Jeff Bzdelick said. "He is taking balls to the hole and hitting the offensive glass, and those kinds of things are needed for him to be a complete scorer."

The Raptors didn't shoot well after a sizzling end to the first quarter, but spread the scoring around with six players in double figures. Jalen Rose had 30 points — going 15-for-16 on free-throw attempts — Chris Bosh added 15 and Vince Carter 14.

Where the Raptors had trouble was on defense.

Toronto was outscored 56-26 inside and spent most of the game reaching on defense, sending the Nuggets to the free-throw line 34 times. Denver did its part, making 30 after entering the game at 69 percent, and took advantage of defensive lapses in the second half to hit 24 of 39 shots after shooting 35 percent in the first.

"We did enough things to win the game and scored enough points. We just didn't get stops when we needed them," said Toronto coach Sam Mitchell, whose team has lost five of six since a 3-0 start.

Toronto's biggest problem was slowing the combination of Anthony and Martin.

The pair was expected to give Denver a powerful front line after Martin signed in the offseason, but Anthony's early troubles and K-Mart's sore knee kept them from living up to the hype.

Denver played without center Marcus Camby and power forward Nene due to hamstring injuries, and Martin did his best to make up for their absence with his usual aggressive play.

Charging in for dunks and clearing out space for rebounds, Martin made 11 of 23 shots, grabbed five offensive rebounds and had a spectacular dunk off Andrew Miller's pass over the backboard to put the Nuggets up 106-106 with 13 seconds left.

## Owens apologizes for his role in 'MNF' skit

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens apologized Thursday to anyone offended by his role in a steamy segment with actress Nicolette Sheridan for the intro to "Monday Night Football."

"I felt like it was clean, the organization felt it was a clean skit. I think it just really got taken out of context with a lot of people and I apologize for that," Owens said.

"Personally I didn't think it would have offended anyone and if, did it, I apologize."

ABC and the Eagles also apologized this week, with the team

saying they wished the segment "hadn't aired."

The opening, which has generated complaints to ABC and the Federal Communications Commission, showed Sheridan wearing only a towel and provocatively asking Owens to skip the game for her as the two stood alone in a locker room. She drops the towel and jumps into Owens' arms.

Owens had no idea the intro would create such a backlash.

"I thought it was a fun skit and that was it," Owens said.

Owens, a flashy player known for his outrageous touchdown celebrations, seemed to believe the skit was generating controversy because of his participa-



# Fuel-strengthened Detroit Pistons - wolves

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Larry Brown was coaching again, Ben Wallace and Chauncey Billups were in the lineup again, and the Detroit Pistons defense showed up, too.

After allowing more than 100 points in back-to-back losses, Detroit shut down the Minnesota Timberwolves in the stretch on en route to a 93-85 victory Wednesday night.

"Having Chauncey and Ben back was more important than that's for sure," Brown said. "Losing those two has a big effect on your team."

Billups, who missed the Pistons' loss in Utah with a sprained ankle, had 15 of his 21 points in the third quarter.

"I just wanted to be aggressive out there," he said. "We played the way we play — good defense, and we took stuff away from Minnesota."

Wallace was out of games because of a death in his family, but returned to help Detroit hold Minnesota scoreless during a key six-minute stretch of the fourth.

"That's our game," he said. "Our legs were fresh and we were able to play tight defense."

Brown missed five games, including three losses, with a hip problem. The team announced an hour before the game that he would probably not coach, but he led the team during pregame introductions. Brown had a special chair at courtside to ease the pain.

"I felt stupid — Joe Dumars told me that I must be the first coach to ever be a game-time decision," Brown said.

Kevin Hamilton led Detroit with 24 points and 11 rebounds. Tayshaun Prince added 13. Richard Garnett had 24 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, while Latrell Sprewell scored 24.

"Detroit makes it tough on you, because all of their players go to the basket," Garnett said. "They make you beat them by shooting jump shots, and you can't win a game that way."

**Pacers 93, Hawks 86:** At Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal had 25 points and 13 rebounds to provide a dazzling performance by friend and former teammate Al Harrington.

Harrington, who spent his first six seasons in Indiana before being traded in the offseason for Stephen Jackson, scored 40 points on 12-of-19 shooting in his first game against his former team.

**Wizards 110, Celtics 105 (OT):** Antawn Jamison scored 27 points, Gilbert Arenas had 25, and host Washington shut out Boston for the first 4:47 of overtime.

Jared Jeffries added a career-high 15 points in his first start of the season. He also blocked a jumper by Paul Pierce in overtime and drew a crucial charge on Pierce in the extra period.

**Magic 107, Jazz 92:** At Orlando, Grant Hill scored 25 points and Steve Francis had season highs of 33 points and 11 assists for the Magic.

Mostly shooting jumpers under Andre

Kirielenko, usually a dependable defensive stopper, Hill was 13-for-18 in his best offensive performance since scoring 36 points against Minnesota on April 10, 2000.

**SuperSonics 79, Nets 68:** Despite starting on a 10-for-10 and 10-for-10 streak, half 0-for-8, Seattle got some timely offense from Rashard Lewis and improved the NBA's best record to 8-1.

Seattle's eighth straight win came on the road against a Nets team that had more fouls (29) than field goals (26) and committed 23 turnovers.

**Suns 95, Hornets 84:** Amare Stoudemire's career-high 38 points — one night after he scored 34 at Dallas — led Phoenix over the winless Hornets.

The host Hornets attempted only two foul shots, tying an NBA low and breaking the team mark they set in Milwaukee on Saturday night when they took only three.

**Heat 113, Bucks 106:** At Milwaukee, Shaquille O'Neal scored a season-high 26 points, and Eddie Jones had 27 to help Miami beat the Bucks for the second time in four days.

Dwyane Wade added 18 points and seven assists.

**Grizzlies 101, Trail Blazers 82:** Bonzi Wells scored 25 points against his former team, and Memphis beat Portland for its first road victory of the season.

Jason Kidd added points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who led by as many as 34.

**Warriors 89, Bulls 85:** Jason Richardson had 27 points, eight rebounds and four

**Detroit Pistons guard Chauncey Billups (11) shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves guard Sam Cassell on Wednesday.**

assist, and Golden State beat winless Chicago.

Speedy Claxton added 14 points and 11 assists before fouling out late for the Warriors, who won at home for the first time in four games this season.

**Lakers 103, Clippers 89:** Kobe Bryant had 23 points, six rebounds and a season-high 11 assists, and Chuck Atkins scored 12 of his 17 points in the first 6½ minutes of the fourth quarter for the Lakers.

The Lakers are 18-3 against the Clippers at Staples Center since the arena opened five years ago, and have a 27-3 record in the last 30 games between the teams.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
Philadelphia	4	500	1st
Boston	4	486	2nd
Toronto	4	444	3rd
New York	4	444	4th
New Jersey	2	250	5th

Southeast Division			
Miami	6	567	1st
Orlando	4	486	2nd
Washington	4	486	3rd
New Orleans	4	486	4th
Charlotte	1	167	5th

Central Division			
Indiana	2	250	1st
Cleveland	4	571	1st
Detroit	3	571	2nd
Chicago	3	500	3rd
Memphis	0	0	4th

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
San Antonio	7	618	1st
Dallas	7	578	2nd
Houston	4	486	3rd
Seattle	3	375	4th
Phoenix	1	250	5th
Utah	0	0	6th
Portland	3	429	7th
Denver	3	375	8th

Pacific Division			
Phoenix	6	578	1st
San Jose	4	578	2nd
Lakers	4	556	3rd
Sacramento	4	556	4th
Golden State	2	222	5th

Westwood's games			
Orlando	107	102	92
Washington	110	105	105
Atlanta	110	105	105
Seattle	79	85	85
San Antonio	113	106	106
Memphis	107	102	102
Denver	112	102	102
Portland	82	82	82
Golden State	89	85	85

Friday's games			
San Antonio at Boston	110	102	102
Atlanta at Detroit	92	82	82
New York at Dallas	102	92	92
Chicago at Denver	102	92	92
Memphis at Portland	102	92	92
Sacramento at Sacramento	102	92	92
Houston at Atlanta	102	92	92
Utah at Indiana	102	92	92
Charlotte at Cleveland	102	92	92
Orlando at Indiana	102	92	92
Minnesota at New Jersey	102	92	92

### Memphis at Golden State Sunday's games

San Antonio at Toronto			
San Antonio	110	102	102
Seattle at Boston	110	102	102
Charlotte at Detroit	110	102	102
Portland at Houston	110	102	102
Houston at Portland	110	102	102
Milwaukee at Sacramento	110	102	102
Golden State at Portland	110	102	102

### Wednesday

#### Magic 107, Jazz 92

**UTAH** — Kirielenko 3-8 6-6 12, Boozer 12-22 3-4 7, Collins 3-8 2-2 6, Granger 2-2 2-6, Arrington 2-7 4-10, Hargreeves 2-4 4-4 2-2, B. Richardson 1-1 0-0 0-0, Total 33-82 26-39.

**ORLANDO** — Hill 13-23 6-12, Howard 2-5 1-3, Cato 3-5 3-4 9, Stevenson 3-6 1-1, Francis 10-15 10-14 3-3, Garrett 5-6 2-2 0-0, Total 113-102.

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### Boston Washington

Three-Point Goals			
Boston	11	22	11
Washington	11	22	11
Boston	11	22	11
Washington	11	22	11
Boston	11	22	11
Washington	11	22	11

### Pistons 93, Timberwolves 85

**MINNESOTA** — Szabek 21-30 8-13, Garnett 19-25 2-6 4, Olowokandi 2-0 3-8, Cassell 1-1 1-3, Sprewell 9-13 6-4 2, Hazzell 13-19 0-0 0-0, Total 82-101.

**DETROIT** — 13-23 6-12, Howard 2-5 1-3, Cato 3-5 3-4 9, Stevenson 3-6 1-1, Francis 10-15 10-14 3-3, Garrett 5-6 2-2 0-0, Total 113-102.

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# sign of NHL lockout ending anytime soon

## Union, players' agents meet, say it's up to the owners to make next move in negotiations

BY NANCY ARMOUR  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The NHL players' union is answering the league's hard stance with one of its own, offering little hope for resolution of the lockout that threatens to wipe out the entire season.

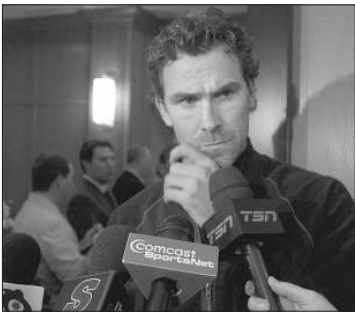
The NHL Players' Association and 62 agents presented a unified front as they emerged from a six-hour informational session Wednesday, saying the union has presented a solid proposal and it's now up to the owners to come to the bargaining table.

If the owners refuse to budge, hockey won't be played "for a long, long time," agent Ritch Winter said.

"I guarantee the framework laid by the NHLPA will be what we will sign at one point," Winter said. "I can only hope the owners pay a little more attention, understand what it proposes, because it appears for the most part they do not. When they do, they'll understand the players as a group have what I call a quality guarantee we can play hockey."

The lockout, in its 63rd day, was imposed by Commissioner Gary Bettman after the collective bargaining agreement expired Sept. 15.

The NHL and the players' association haven't met since Sept. 9, and have no plans to return to the bargaining table.



Trevor Linden, president of the NHL Players' Executive Committee, talks to reporters after a meeting with NHL Players Association officials and agents of locked-out NHL players Wednesday in Rosemont, Ill.

The All-Star Game has already been canceled, and the Stanley Cup finals are in danger of being wiped out for the first time since 1919, when the series between Montreal and Seattle was stopped after five games due to a Spanish influenza epidemic.

"We've got real concerns that we're going to lose the season,

there's no question," agent Don Bazilez said. "Both sides remain resolute at this moment, so there is a real risk of losing the season, there's no question about that. But everybody hopes that can be avoided."

The union made the last proposal in September, a plan centered on a luxury tax instead of a salary

cap. The NHL rejected it because the league says that won't achieve "cost certainty" — a term the players say is tantamount to a salary cap.

A handful of players said last month they would be willing to play under a salary-cap system, or would return to the ice next season if the NHL decided to use replacement players if a deal wasn't reached.

But agents at the meeting Wednesday said they supported NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow. He explained the union's proposal in detail to the agents and shared the union's correspondence with the league.

"There's no question that all the agents and the players are on the same page with Bob," agent Mark Gandler said. "Everybody wants the season to start. But by the same token, not on the terms that are proposed by the league."

Though there had been some talk that the NHLPA might present the league with a new proposal, Goodenow said there are no plans for that right now.

"We understand that there are certain teams that have got some difficulties, there's no question at all about that. And our proposal recognizes that," Goodenow said. "But what the league's asking from the players is a cap system. The league is asking for players to correct situations which the CBA is not really the fault of."

"We can't be the solutions to all of their ills. And it's really disappointing that Gary Bettman and the owners don't step up and take some of the responsibility for some of the problems they themselves have created."

Playing the blame game isn't going to accomplish anything, said Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer.

"This is a sport that has significant problems," Daly said.

"It's not an issue of who created them, it's an issue of how to resolve the problems going forward. And that should be equally important to the union as it is to the league."

NHL management claims teams combined to lose \$273 million in 2002-03 and \$224 million last season. While Goodenow said the players have proposed more than \$100 million in annual concessions, Bettman has said the offer would do little for owners.

That appears to leave the sides at an impasse. And with each passing day, the chances of saving the NHL season grow smaller.

"I'm not very optimistic at all," said Dallas Stars forward Bill Guerin, a member of the executive board. "But you never know. We're still very early into this whole lockout process. But I'm not optimistic."

# English golfer Casey apologizes for saying he 'hates' Americans

The Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain — English golfer Paul Casey apologized Thursday for derogatory comments he made about Americans.

Casey was quoted in English newspapers saying he "hated" Americans. He said he'd made the statement in the context of the attitude he had going into the Ryder Cup two months ago, which Europe won in a landslide against the United States.

"I'd like to apologize and do everything I could to take it back," Casey said Thursday after shooting an 11-under par 61 with partner Luke Donald in the World Cup.

Australian's Padraig Harrington and Scott McGilvray and Austria's Martin Wiegele and Markus Brier shared the first-round lead with a score of 60.

Casey, 27, lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, attended college at Arizona State and will play full-time next season on the U.S. PGA Tour. He said he had been besieged with "huge negative feedback, a lot of nasty stuff" after his comments were widely reported on Wednesday.

He said he explained himself to American golfers Bob Tway and Scott Verplank, who are playing in the tournament in Seville.

"I think they understood. At least I hope they did," he said.

A headline quoting Casey in Wednesday's The Mirror newspaper read: "Americans are stupid."

## Sports briefs

I hate them." He went on in the story to criticize the choice of Tom Lehman as 2006 American Ryder Cup captain.

"I regret what I said. Unfortunately the story has been run with and there is nothing I can do about that," Casey said. "I can't do anything to correct it now. I wish I could."

Casey had nothing against the States whatsoever. I wouldn't live there if I did. I pay my taxes there, my coach, girlfriend and friends are there. I wish I could take it back."

Casey said it was his mistake to ever use the word "hate," even though it was meant in the context of a sports event.

"Unfortunately there was a line I said, which I can't deny I said. It was said off the cuff and maybe taken out of context, but nonetheless it was there," he added. "I shouldn't have used the word. That was my error."

## U.S. keeps Jamaica from advancing in Cup qualifying

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jamaica failed to advance in World Cup Qualifying, tying the United States 1-1 Wednesday in a game the Reggae Boys needed to win.

For the Americans, the match was merely a tuneup and a chance to give several young play-

ers World Cup qualifying experience. The Americans, who got a goal from Eddie Johnson, won a spot in the U.S.'s sixth-team regional finals with a 6-0 win over Panama last month.

Panama advanced to the regional finals with a 3-0 win over El Salvador on Wednesday.

Johnson scored in the 15th minute for the Americans on a lofting pass from Pablo Mastroeni. Andy Williams tied the score in the 27th minute on a penalty kick.

Jamaica would have advanced with a win, or a tie coupled with a Panama tie or loss. The Reggae Boys were seeking to return to the World Cup after qualifying in 1998 and falling short in 2002.

## Percival agrees to two-year, \$12 million deal with Tigers

DETROIT — Free agent Troy Percival and the Detroit Tigers agreed Wednesday to a \$12 million, two-year contract, a move that will lead to Ugueth Urbina becoming a setup man or getting traded.

Percival, 35, was 2-3 with a 2.90 ERA and 33 saves last season with Anaheim. The Angels made no attempt to re-sign him and plan to use Francisco Rodriguez as their closer in 2005.

Percival was fourth in the AL in saves, reaching 30 for the first time in a straight season, the longest streak by an active pitcher.

"We're extremely pleased to

have a person of his makeup and his ability to bolster the bullpen," Tigers president Dave Dombrowski said.

Coming off a \$21.25 million, three-year deal that paid him \$7.5 million in 2004, Percival gets \$6 million in each of the next two seasons.

"But Nov. 5, Detroit couldn't win the AL Central next season."

"They've got the platters to do it and they've got the commitment from the owner to do it," he said. "On Nov. 5, Detroit couldn't win the AL Central next season."

Urbina was ninth in the AL with 21 saves and is 39-43 with a 3.42 ERA and 227 saves in 10 seasons.

Dombrowski recalled how Urbina was the setup man in Florida and mentioned a trade as a possibility.

"I don't know where that's going to go," Dombrowski said. "We'll have to see."

## Greek sprinters charged with dodging doping test

ATHENS, Greece — Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou and their coach were charged Thursday with avoiding a drug test on the eve of the Athens Olympics and faking a motorcycle accident hours later.

Chief prosecutor Dimitris Pa-

pangelopoulos, announcing the results of a two-month investigation, issued charges against the two athletes and coach Christos Tzekos. The coach was also charged with illegally importing and selling banned substances.

Twelve others — including seven doctors at the state-run hospital where Thanou and Kenteris were treated after the alleged motorcycle crash — were charged with making false statements.

No trial date was set, though it is not expected to go to trial for at least a year.

There was no immediate from the sprinters or their lawyer. The sprinters have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and argued they were not properly informed by testers. But Kenteris fired Tzekos as his coach after withdrawing from the Olympics.

Kenteris, 21, won gold in the 200 meters at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, and Thanou, 29, won silver in the 100 meters.

## Woods takes early lead in Dunlop Phoenix

MIYAZAKI, Japan — Tiger Woods overcame soggy conditions to win a 3-under 65 for a three-stroke lead over the first round of the Dunlop Phoenix.

Playing in a steady downpour at the Phoenix Country Club, Woods opened with a birdie on the par-4 10th hole and added four more to take the lead in the \$1.89 million tournament, the richest on the Japanese tour.

# Confident Wolfpack overwhelms New Orleans

BY KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Time and again, a North Carolina State player turned down an open shot, choosing instead to pass the ball to an open teammate.

"I'm just really proud of them, because they did it the right way," Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek said. "We all kind of like ourselves, and it's commendable when you have people willing to share."

Julius Hodge led a balanced attack with 21 points, and No. 19 N.C. State jumped on New Orleans early in a 92-58 victory Wednesday night in the first round of the BCA Invitational.

Jordan Collins scored a career-high 17 points, Engin Atsur had 14 and four other players finished with at least eight.

"We shared the ball tonight like never before," said Tony Bethel, who joined Hodge with a game-high six assists. "We made the extra pass. Guys were passing up good shots to get a great one." N.C. State advanced to the second round and will play Elon, which beat Fairleigh Dickinson 73-59.

The Wolfpack made their first five shots and scored the first 11 points, never giving the Privateers and coach Monte Towe a chance.



North Carolina State's Cameron Bennerman (13) takes the ball away from New Orleans' Bo McCaleb during the first half Wednesday night in the first round of the BCA Invitational in Raleigh, N.C.

Towe starred at N.C. State during the 1970s, leading a team that included David Thompson and Tommy Burleson to the 1974 NCAA championship.

Thompson and Burleson sat be-

hind the scorer's table for this one, watching as their former teammates tried in vain to keep New Orleans in the game. The Privateers had more turnovers than baskets well into the second half,

and they even resorted to running down the shot clock.

Nothing helped, mostly because the Wolfpack were too good. After Collins started the scoring with two free throws, Bethel and Levi Watkins each made two three-pointers. Collins added a three-point play, and N.C. State didn't miss until Hodge's first shot about 5½ minutes into the game.

"This has been a highlight for me, to bring my team in here to Raleigh," Towe said. "I have to give North Carolina State all the credit in the world. I've always thought Herb Sendek has done a great job, and he'll continue to do so if everybody keeps supporting him."

Atsur had four threes — all in the first half — as the Wolfpack went 11-for-28 from beyond the arc. They had 80 points with well over 10 minutes left in the game, thanks to that unselfish style of play that included 24 assists.

Bo McCaleb led New Orleans with 21 points, the team's only player in double figures.

"I have to give Bo credit for hanging in there and hanging tough," Towe said. "I thought Bo showed everybody that he can play with anybody in the country."

The Privateers used a brief run to get within 47-27 near the end of

the first half, but N.C. State closed with nine straight points.

Ilian Evtimov started it off with a jumper, and Hodge added two layups.

After a turnover, Cameron Bennerman followed up a miss by Bethel with a powerful dunk. Hodge made a free throw with less than a second left to close out the scoring.

"I guess making shots can be contagious," Hodge said. "Guys were really feeding off each other. This is the most confident the team has been in the offense since I've been here. We're just going to continue to follow the plan."

The second half wasn't much better for New Orleans. With the score 61-37, Collins started a 13-0 spurt with another three-point play. Evtimov followed with a layup of a nifty pass from Bethel. Bennerman had four points and Hodge added his own rim-shaking dunk.

Freshman Gavin Grant closed it out with his first basket, a jumper from the wing.

Collins improved on his previous best of 11 points, set last season against Wake Forest.

"I feel really good about myself, and I think my teammates do, too," he said. "They gave me some great passes."

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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## SPORTS



Time to 'go for broke'  
for five drivers still  
in the Chase, Page 26

## Anthony cleared for takeoff



After having marijuana possession charges dropped, Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, left, scored 30 points against the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night, helping Denver win 112-106. See Page 28.

## Steelers see line for MVP

Players say main reason for turnaround is effort of five guys in trenches

By ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — When the Pittsburgh Steelers vote for the team's most valuable player this year, a lot of ballots might be split five ways.

Even with so many players enjoying big seasons — Ben Roethlisberger, Duce Staley, James Farrior and Troy Polamalu — the Steelers agree almost unanimously that the offensive line is the main reason for their dramatic turnaround.

One season after the Steelers endured their worst season running the ball since 1967, they are No. 2 in rushing — with only 20 fewer yards in nine games than they had in 16 last season. They're well down the list in sacks allowed, too, with only 15 — 25 fewer than the New York Giants.

Massive personnel changes aren't the reason for the upgrade; each of the five regulars started at least nine games last season except left tackle Marvel Smith, limited to six starts by a neck injury.

So how could a line that played well below expectations on a 6-10 team last year be performing at such a high level this season on an 8-1 team?

"There's been a big emphasis on the run this year from the start," former All-Pro guard Alan Faneca said Wednesday. "We've

been running the ball a lot and getting a lot of chances, and the running backs have been doing a good job of getting through the holes."

Last year, the Steelers abandoned their long-standing commitment to the running game to emphasize quarterback Tommy Maddox's throwing, a byproduct of Maddox's strong production once he became the starter in 2002.

This season, the Steelers have emphasized the run since the opening week of camp, when offensive coordinator Ken Whisenand didn't call a single passing play during the first three goal-line scrimmages against the defense.

It's also helped that there have been no injuries since right guard Kendall Simmons (knee) was lost for the season early in camp.

Keydrick Vincent stepped in for Simmons after making nine starts last season and, along with an ever-improving Oliver Ross at right tackle, has stabilized what appeared to be a shaky right side of the line.

"We're all anchored in our spots for a couple of months now, and that helps," Faneca said. "It helps to know what the guy next to you is thinking. It makes life a lot easier out there when you can just let it rip."

SEE LINE ON PAGE 27

Unselfish  
Wolfpack  
carve up  
Privateers  
by passing up  
good shots  
for teammates'  
great ones

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Spurrier reportedly will replace Holtz at South Carolina Page 25